THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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SAMOSA DIPLOMACY TO BOOST INDIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Sunday tweeted pictures of samosas and mango chutney he made at home

'SCOMOSAS' MADE FROM THE SCRATCH

Morrison shared the pictures days ahead of his video meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he would have liked to share the popular snack with the Indian leader. "Sunday ScoMosas with mango chutney, all made from scratch – including the chutney! A pity my meeting with @narendramodi this week is by videolink. They're vegetarian..." he tweeted

CONNECTED BY OCEAN, UNITED BY SNACK

- PM Modi replied that the two countries are "Connected by the Indian Ocean, united by the Indian Samosa!"
- Morrison was scheduled to visit India in January but it was postponed to May due to the wildfires in Australia. Now, it has been converted into a virtual summit due to the pandemic

June 4

WHEN MODI AND MORRISON WILL MEET THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Which state is doing what to ease lockdown

Here's a look at the decisions taken by a few states on the way forward for Lockdown 5.0. Maharashtra alone has not opened up in a big way, which is understandable because its viral load is the highest in the country

INTER- AND INTRA-STATE MOVEMENT

Bar lifted on movement of people and goods in Karnataka, Telangana; no special pass needed. Karnataka health dept to issue SOP on inter-state movement of people. In Maharashtra, intra-state and intra-district travel allowed only on emergency. In West Bengal, to be allowed from June 1

PLACES OF WORSHIP

To be open in Punjab from June 8; to remain shut in TN, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Assam

ENTRY TO PARKS

- Open in Rajasthan, but not if it has a place of worship within • In Maharashtra, outdoor physical activity like exercising, cycling, jogging, running permitted in public places between 5 am and 7 pm from June 3

BARBER SHOPS/ SALONS/ SPA

To remain shut in Maharashtra; can open elsewhere, including Rajasthan, Assam, UP

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, HOSPITALITY SERVICES, SHOPPING MALLS

TO BE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION IN U.P. AND PUNJAB FROM JUNE 8. NO PLAN TO REOPEN THEM IN MAHARASHTRA

International air travel, Metro Rail, cinema halls, gyms, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars and auditoriums

Public transport to open in six zones in Tamil Nadu

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Odisha puts off plan to reopen schools from mid-June. No plan yet to open them in Maharashtra, Assam, Tamil Nadu. School, colleges to remain closed in UP till July 20. Madhya Pradesh government will decide in July after consulting stake-holders

ROADSIDE TEA SHOPS, STREET HAWKERS CAN FUNCTION IN MOST PLACES, INCLUDING RAJASTHAN

GOVT, PVT OFFICES Can function with full capacity in Rajasthan; with just **15% and 10% staff** in Maharashtra

WORK FROM HOME Encouraged in all private offices across India

200 SPECIAL TRAINS START OPERATIONS TODAY

MORE THAN 1.45 LAKH PASSENGERS TO TRAVEL ON DAY 1. JHARKHAND, ANDHRA, MAHARASHTRA EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT RUNNING OF TRAINS AND STOPPAGES. THE MATTER IS BEING DISCUSSED

MSMEs Can engage full workforce from June 1 in West Bengal; already allowed to function elsewhere

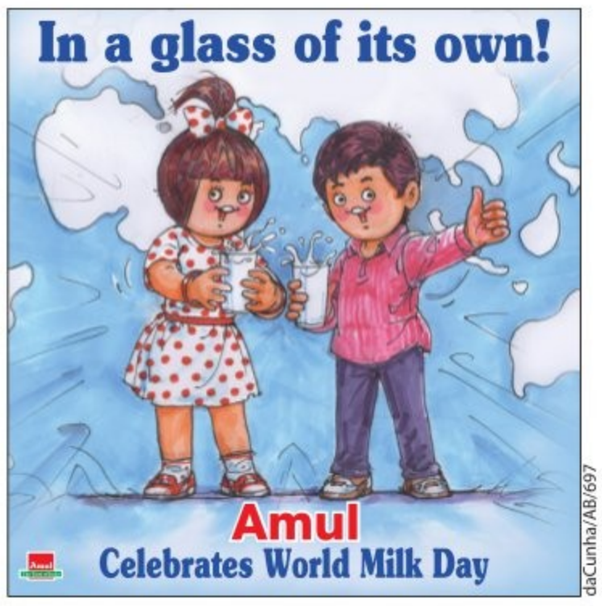
CONTAINMENT ZONES Lockdown to remain in force in till June 30 across India

OUTSIDE CONTAINMENT ZONES Lockdown extended till June 7 in most states, including Telangana, J&K; extended for two weeks till June 15 in West Bengal

NIGHT 'CURFEW'

Movement of people restricted between **9 pm and 5 am** across India. No shops/ establishments, except hospitals and pharmacies, to remain open after 8 pm in Telangana

ODISHA, KERALA Both states to reveal plans on Monday



3,221 STATE ADDS 1,000 MORE CASES IN JUST SEVEN DAYS

299 +ve, 2 deaths in a day, Govt estimates 2L cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA on Sunday crossed the 3,000-mark in the total number of Covid-19 cases, with the figure standing at 3,221 after a record 299 positive cases were added to the count in a single day. Also, two more persons died from the disease on Sunday, taking the death toll to 51.

This is by far the fastest 1,000 added — in just seven days. While the state took 68 days to reach the first 1,000 cases, it took just nine days to reach the 2,000-mark. With the state now crossing 3,000 cases in just a week from May 24, a worrisome trend of a much faster increase in the spread of the virus is now staring the state government in the face.

Taking this into consideration, the State Government's latest Covid-19 contingency plan has projected that there could be as many as two lakh Covid-19 patients in Karnataka in this current pandemic.

Kuruba Pet and Gowri Pet in Kolar were sealed on Sunday. In Bengaluru, Gurappanpalya was also sealed

The earlier projection had pegged the estimate at a total of 87,196 cases in the state. The new projection is now being used to appropriately mobilise resources to manage the pandemic.

Of the state's total of 3,221 cases, 52.34 per cent are those who have travelled into Karnataka from Maharashtra, a high Covid-19 prevalence state. At least 1,686 patients who have tested positive have come from Maharashtra.

MORE REPORTS: P4,7,8

K'taka readies to open up, conditions apply

No restrictions on movement of people, but containment zones will continue to be under lockdown till June 30

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

INCHING towards exiting the lockdown in a graded manner, the Karnataka Government on Sunday said all activities hitherto prohibited will be allowed to restart in phases, except in containment zones.

On Saturday, the Centre had laid down the path to 'Unlock 1.0', allowing reopening of places of worship and restaurants among others.

In a circular, State Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar said all activities will be permitted in areas outside containment zones, except some, which will be allowed as per Standard Operating Procedures prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in a phased manner.

In Phase 1, places of worship, hotels and restaurants, other hospital services and shopping malls will be opened from June 8. Under Phase 2, a decision on openings of schools, colleges, training/ coaching institutes will be taken, but only in July. The government will hold consultations with parents and other stakeholders prior to this.

Under Phase 3, international air travel, as permitted by the Union Home Ministry, metro trains, cinema halls, gymnasiums, entertainment parks, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls, social/political/sports/ entertainment/academic/cultural/religious functions and other large congregations will be allowed based on the assessment of the situation.

Night curfew will continue, though there will be some relaxation. Movement of people will be restricted from 9 pm to 5 am, as against the earlier 7 pm to 7 am, and local authorities have been directed to ensure strict compliance.

The lockdown will continue in containment zones till June 30 and the areas will be demarcated by local authorities in line with the State Health Ministry guidelines. In the containment zones, only essential services will be allowed and people will not be allowed to move out. There will be intensive contact tracing, house-to-house surveillance and clinical interventions. P5

WHAT WILL OPEN

Activities outside containment zones will be allowed, but some under standard operating procedures

PHASE 1 (FROM JUNE 8)
- Places of worship
- Hotels and restaurants
- Other services in hospitals

PHASE 2 (DECISION IN JULY)
- Educational and training/ coaching institutions

PHASE 3
- International flights
- Parks
- Metro
- Bars
- Cinema halls
- Auditoriums
- Gymnasiums
- Assembly halls

Congregations will be allowed after assessing situation

Karnataka to take a call on resuming inter-state bus operations after getting consent from other states. Intra-state services have been started with several restrictions

NEW ORDER

Trump plans to expand G7, give India seat at the table

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

INDIA may get a seat at an expanded G7 as US President Donald Trump wants to revamp the 'outdated' grouping.

"I do not feel G7 properly represents what is going on in the world. It's a very outdated group of countries. I would like to invite Russia, South Korea, Australia and India to join an expanded summit in the fall," Trump told reporters.

He also postponed the proposed 'in-person' G7 summit scheduled to be held at the White House this month to September. India is yet to respond to the 'invitation'.

Trump's moves come in the wake of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's refusal to attend the in-person G7 meet amid the pandemic.

Group of Seven is an international economic organization comprising the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the UK.

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

India-China border stand-off shifts online after video leak

MAYANK SINGH & PUSHKAR BANAKAR
@ New Delhi

THE Sino-Indian tension shifted from land to social media on Sunday with leaks of a video and a photo purportedly of clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh on May 5-6 night.

"The contents of the video being circulated are not authenticated. Attempt to link it with the situation on the northern borders is malafide," the Army said. Ever since troops of the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army clashed on the northern flank of the Pangong Tso Lake, the PLA has entered areas that are inside the Indian claim line.

A video showing a large number of Indian security personnel on the banks of a lake, appeared on Twitter. The personnel were seen shouting and pointing towards a hill with a person, supposedly a PLA soldier, lying on ground and an Indian security person shielding him. In the next sequence people start shouting slogans. Both Indian Army and ITBP have presence in the area.

Soon after, two Twitter handles shared a photo of Indian soldiers badly hurt and with legs of some of them tied with rope. The handle @OedoSoldier tweeted it around afternoon, which was picked up by @dafengcao and it went viral. The two handles have contents largely associated with the PLA, China.

SC JUDGE'S TAKE

'Aspersions on judiciary is intolerance'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over imputations against the judiciary, especially through social media, **Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul** said on Sunday that such aspersions are a reflection of intolerance.

Giving an online lecture on 'Freedom of Speech in times of Covid-19 — Fake news and misinformation' organised by the MBA Academy and the Madras High Court Bar Association, Justice Kaul said criticism of a view point or judgment itself is not the problem. "The issue arises when former members of the institution start making imputations and gradings." While he did not take any names, his comments appear to be a response to former SC judge Madan B Lokur's recent blog, which said the apex court deserved an 'F' grade for the manner in which it handled the migrant crisis.

Justice Kaul is part of the SC bench hearing the migrant issue. He observed people are becoming increasingly intolerant of opinions that don't align with theirs. "So, people who hold opposing views may be called by each other as a 'Modi Bhakt' or an 'Urban Naxal' or other labels," he said, adding that one has to learn to appreciate another's point of view without agreeing with it.

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday 01/06/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dashami 12.11 pm • Nakshatra: Hastha 10.58 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 23°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Breaks of sun late

Sunrise 5.52 am
Sunset 6.42 pm
Moonrise 12.45 pm
Moonset 12.57 am

No salon visit for children, senior citizens

Other customers told to fill e-forms about travel history, Covid symptoms, if any

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

IF you are a senior citizen and seek an appointment at a salon, chances are that you won't get it. Salons are saying a big no to appointments to citizens above 60 and children below 10 years of age as precautionary measures. Some have come up with a questionnaire wherein customers have to fill forms online about their travel history, quarantine periods, whether they have Covid-19 symptoms, or the contact of a patient or are from containment zones. Only if the customers have all answers as 'No' will they get an appointment.

Sultana Rizwi (66), resident of Richards Town, said, "I had an appointment at a unisex salon in Frazer Town. However, they said senior citizens are not allowed. I told them that I have no Covid-19 symptoms. But they told me it was for our own safety. Even we want to come out of this pandemic stress and relax at a salon."

Most salons have started their business after a two-month-long break. Latha Mohan, founder and MD of Spalon and owner of Bounce Salon, said, "We are not taking appointments of those above 60 years and children below 10 years. Even though they are not comfortable with this rule, it is for their own safety. We have in fact stopped using air-conditioners and have procured around 150 standing fans for the Bounce Salons in the city."

Manjul Gupta, Founder Director, Bodycraft and Salon, said, "We have a self-declaration form where the customers are asked to fill in answers. And only later are they given appointment. Even if they are walk-in customers, they are asked to fill the form before coming in and are even asked to download the Aarogya Setu App. They are not allowed if they don't have the app. Further, for the elderly customers, we have told them to wait for a few more weeks. If things get better, we will give them an appointment."

> We have a self-declaration form where the customers are asked to fill in answers. Even if they are walk-in customers, they are asked to fill the form before coming in and are even asked to download the Aarogya Setu App
>
> Pushkaraj Shenai, CEO of Lakmé Salon

Pushkaraj Shenai, CEO of Lakmé Salon, said that they have implemented 55 enhanced measures, developed in collaboration with medical professionals, for the utmost safety of customers and staff post lockdown. "It includes screening of salon teams with strict social distancing through 50% staff strength and limited pre-booked appointments. We have daily deep cleaning and regular disinfection of every touchpoint throughout the day, protective gear for the team, revised processes for skin, hair and makeup services to reduce touch, development of single-use kits, enhanced sterilization protocols and contactless billing and payments."

A staffer at a parlour attends to a customer while taking precautions in Bengaluru | MEGHANA SASTRY

BACK TO BUSINESS

A shopowner on Commercial Street puts masks on manequins and gets his store ready for business after the state government lifted the Sunday curfew | SHRIRAM BN

Supply chain issues, govt policies dog space startups

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

AS the world celebrated the launch of a manned mission by NASA-SpaceX Falcon9 and the triumph of private enterprise on Sunday, space entrepreneurs in India, who largely depend on foreign manufactures, continued to face problems because of Covid-related issues and hazy government policies.

These startups, which are mostly hardware-based, are trying to re-strategise their operations as they are severely affected by supply chain and procurement problems. "If there is a second wave of the pandemic, how a hardware company can utilise work from home scenario to deliver best synergies is still to be explored," said Rohan Ganapathy, co-founder and CEO at Bellatrix Aerospace.

Another challenge is how to work as a hardware team while maintaining safety and social distancing protocols, said Srinath, CEO of Agnikul Cosmos. Srinath used the last two months of lockdown to complete the design work and finetune processes. "The next six to 12 months will be spent on engine testing and then raise another round of funding before attempting an orbital launch. We are trying to launch satellites that are less than 100 kg," he said.

Despite being wary of the details in the policy announced by the government to help small industries, these startups welcomed the administration's decision to involve startups as it would motivate more players to join the sector and attract the attention of investors.

"There is still a lot that needs to be answered by the government. For instance, if a rocket explodes on an ISRO launchpad, who will bear the cost. Since a rocket is also a missile, how do you protect these technologies," Ganapathy asked.

Poor planning leads to chaos at IAF canteen

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

CHAOTIC scenes were witnessed outside an Air Force canteen on HAL Airport Road in the city where over 100 current and former servicemen and their families gathered for hours to buy subsidised provisions and liquor.

Poor arrangements and crowding apparently led to the situation.

They were made to wait outside the closed gates and social distancing went for a toss, although many of them were wearing masks. Vehicles parked on the road outside the Air Force 26 Equipment Depot also impacted traffic flow.

Requesting anonymity, a former serviceman who had come with his daughter to buy provisions, said, "There should be some kind of system in place. See how chaotic everything is. It is 11.30 am now and a few have been here since 8.30 am."

The wife of an Air Force official said, "We came here just to buy provisions. Did not expect this rush."

A few senior citizens were spotted jostling for space in the crowd. Many of them had come to buy subsidised liquor. An army man said, "Each defence staffer is allowed four or five bottles of liquor a month. It reached the depot today after two months due to lockdown. Hence the mad rush."

Anger erupted after some time and many started demanding to be let in. An army man, speaking on a portable loudspeaker, appealed to them to remain calm. "Due to the need to maintain distancing, we are permitting only five people at a time. We will extend the time till 6 pm. All will be given tokens and ... all will be served," he said.

Asked about the chaos, a defence spokesperson said, "There was some confusion. We had issued norms for distancing and issued slots for veterans and other categories. But people chose to just come over."

EXPRESS READ

KSRTC awaits state govt's guidelines

As the state government is now looking at opening inter-state travel, KSRTC is awaiting guidelines from the state government before it starts its operations on June 8. A meeting with Transport Minister Laxman Savadi and top officials of all the state transport corporations will be held on Monday to discuss guidelines. Shivayogi Kalasad, MD of KSRTC, said, "We allowed free movement of vehicles and restrictions will only be in containment zones. While intra-state travel is not an issue, we will have to look into inter-state travel which is also based on the decisions made by the receiving states." ENS

SSLC exam: Minister reviews preparedness

Minister for primary and secondary education S Suresh Kumar on Sunday held review meetings in connection with SSLC exam preparedness in Davanagere, Chitradurga Tumakuru and Madhugiri districts. He was joined by Chitradurga MP A Narayanaswamy, Tumakuru MLA Jyoti Ganesh, CEO of Tumakuru ZP, CEO of Davanagere ZP, DDPIs of the four districts and all the BEOs in their respective districts. Later, Kumar visited Siddaganga Mutt and sought blessings from the seer. The minister will visit many other districts in the coming days. ENS

Won't send kids to school till Covid cases become zero: Parents

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

AS the government is mulling over reopening schools in July, a group has started an online petition against the move.

Members of the group, called 'Parents Association', said they will not send their children to schools until the government declares zero Covid-19 cases or till a vaccine is available. Opening of schools in July will be a bad idea, they said dubbing such a move "insane."

"It's like playing with fire when we ought to douse it with full force. The parents should fight against this stupidity with tooth n nail, not a single child to be sent to the schools for their own safety (sic)," their petition on Change.org read.

It suggested that classes be held on a virtual platform. "If schools claim they are doing a good job via virtual learning, why not continue it for the rest of the academic year?" it said.

As many as 1,06,500 people signed the petition by late Sunday evening. A number of pre-primary schools too have supported the online mode of education, despite NIMHAN's recommendation against it.

"These are unprecedented times and they need an entirely new perspective toward how we approach a problem, which in this case is ensuring learning for our young children does not hit a roadblock. Considering that the physical environment today is not conducive and safe for young children, it's imperative that learning moves from on-ground classrooms to a digital environment where our students are interacting with their teachers and classmates, from the safety of their own homes," said EuroKids' co-founder and chief executive officer Prajodh Rajan.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

01st June: The Moon is now firmly in a fascinating alignment with Aries, so it's time to focus on this sign - and the people born under it. But what should Arien people do? Well, I just read in one of my ancient texts that these wonderful individuals 'do things pertaining to gold, fire, work with cattle, missiles, armies, battles, thefts, and kings'. Sounds amazing!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
It's a wonderfully optimistic day, one to put equal effort into general social contacts and intense, intimate affairs. Some people will believe that all they have to do to make something happen is to think about it! Also, devote more attention to developing your special, creative talents.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The burning question is whether you should concede defeat over a moral issue. I think not, for your authoritarian approach matches the mood of the times better than anyone else's somewhat flabby principles. Mind you, that doesn't mean that you shouldn't listen to other people's wishes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You should wait a little longer before signing on the dotted line, especially if money is an issue. Besides, promises made now may have to be amended before long. Something that appears to guarantee your security may in fact have slight disadvantages, so don't take anything at face value.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your bargaining power couldn't be stronger but, as luck would have it, the opposition is almost insuperable. You had better be as business like as possible and accept that half a loaf is better than none. But, then, you are well-versed in the arts of compromise.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Although in reality you are extremely fortunate, you seem to forget your many blessings. I know you've been carrying the world on your shoulders, but a quiet word here or there could remove one particular burden at a stroke. Just remember that someone, somewhere, loves you.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
To be perfectly blunt, you were born under the sign of the worrier. Today the Moon occupies a part of your horoscope which encourages you to see the worst or look for problems. The result? You're likely to face up to fresh difficulties. The remedy? Lighten up a little!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may consider it best to distance yourself from professional or worldly affairs for a while and devote all your time and energy to making a go of social contacts, or of interests which concern nobody but you. And when you're refreshed and revived then you'll be able to play your full part in solving other people's problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You know better than anyone how difficult it is to distinguish fact from fantasy, yet you now have a chance to face up to the stark truth as never before. It's all a matter of realising that you may have been mistaken all along. Not only that - but a rival might have been right!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Restriction is always followed by expansion. This is a basic law of astrology. So if you feel a little hemmed in today, do your best to be responsible and wait another few days before you let rip. There's no hurry, so prepare your ground with care.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Difficult patterns involving planets like Venus, Jupiter and Mars may be seen as favourable rather then problematic. You may therefore be able to turn the tables on other people, and transform a block on your progress into a guarantee of your material security.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Now that the Sun is your servant rather then your master, you may feel free to make your own future. In some senses your situation reminds me of the prisoner who, on being set free, asked 'what do I do now?' That's a question you'll answer as the coming days and weeks pass.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Very soon everything will come into the open - or almost everything. This doesn't mean that skeletons will be rattling indiscriminately in your emotional cupboards, but that you can choose when and where to make your feelings known. You might even be pleasantly surprised.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE LAUGHING ON THE OUTSIDE AND CRYING ON THE INSIDE
BUT HE'S THE FIRST TO SMIRK ON THE INSIDE!
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

BOSS, I'M AFRAID THE MORALE IN THE OFFICE IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW
OH, THAT ISN'T GOOD, MY BOY
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO HANDLE A SITUATION LIKE THIS
GUESS WHO HAD TO LEAD A PEP RALLY AT THE OFFICE TODAY?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

1	9	7			3			
	4		1	8				9
						1		
7		4	5			2	9	
	6	5				8	3	
	2	1			4	6		7
		3						
5				4	9		6	
			3			4	8	2

MEDIUM

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

4	3	2	8	1	9	6	7	5
7	5	1	3	6	2	8	4	9
8	9	6	5	4	7	2	1	3
6	4	9	1	5	8	7	3	2
2	7	3	4	9	6	5	8	1
1	8	5	7	2	3	4	9	6
9	2	4	6	7	1	3	5	8
5	1	8	2	3	4	9	6	7
3	6	7	9	8	5	1	2	4

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEEEG
TEYNR
LHRBEA
LUTTEO

I can't imagine living anywhere else.
There's so much room for us to stretch out. It's perfect!
ANACONDAS FEEL AT HOME IN TROPICAL SOUTH AMERICA BECAUSE THEY ---

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @tmsjumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHEER FETCH TATTOO ONLINE
Answer: Her students were learning cursive and followed her instructions — TO THE LETTER

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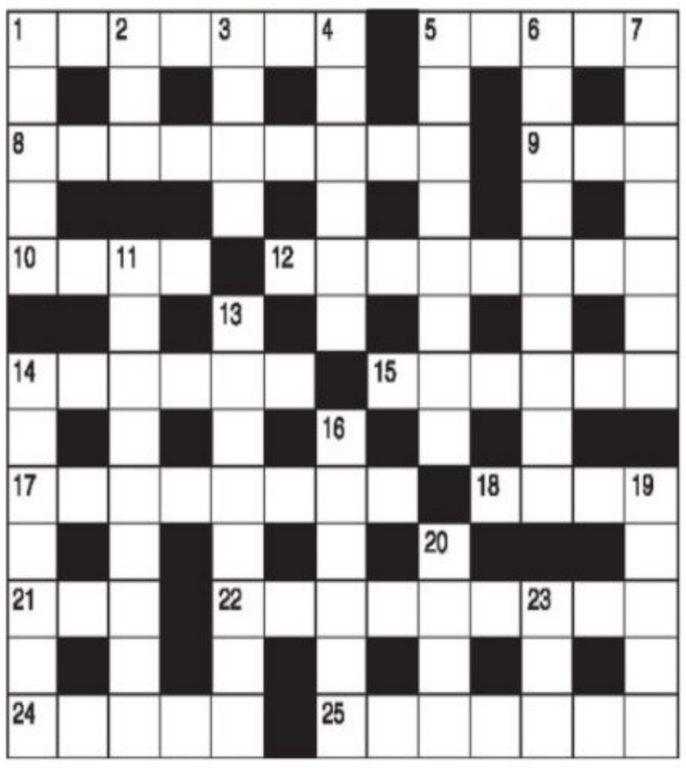
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Savings book (7)
5 Uncommon Elgar composition (5)
8 They have to make cuts in this business (9)
9 One type may get excited, another keeps cool (3)
10 It's not well done in extra rehearsals (4)
12 One blow after another makes great entertainment (5,3)
14 Back payment for an artist (6)
15 There's some point in this system (6)
17 Releases radios without charge (4,4)
18 Letter in the alphabet Athenians used (4)
21 The French way to feel regret (3)
22 Result of changes at the farm (9)
24 He wrote of French opposition (5)
25 Member finishes the accounts (7)

DOWN

1 Either way it's essential to a helicopter (5)
2 Go downhill fast (3)
3 Sufficient space to tie a ship up (4)
4 Variation in game puzzles people (6)
5 A teacher may call it a set of notes (8)
6 The present animal should have no oral examination (4,5)
7 Involved in a cult that's crazy (7)
11 Boar's feet cooked as traditional English fare (5,4)
13 Sam feels different - but isn't (8)
14 A title indeed much wished for (7)
16 Man let out is crazy (6)
19 He goes into a ship and remains (5)
20 Transvestism can be a bore (4)
23 Danny takes her to heart (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Woodwork, 5 Drop, 9 Lydia, 10 Proffer, 11 Pressing need, 13 Handle, 14 Enacts, 17 Capital gains, 20 Implore, 21 Emend, 22 Glee, 23 Vendetta.

Down: 1 Wall, 2 Old iron, 3 Weak solution, 4 Repair, 6 Rifle, 7 Parodist, 8 Forging ahead, 12 Shocking, 15 Convert, 16 Fleece, 18 Pupae, 19 Idea.

AIRLINE PASSENGER COLLAPSES AT KIA, DIES A passenger in his early 20s died after he collapsed at KIA on Friday. He was to board a flight to Visakhapatnam. Police said the passenger was shifted to a hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead. The body has been sent for autopsy, and a Covid-19 test will also be conducted

FIR filed against Padarayanapura corporator

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE JJ Nagar police have registered an FIR against Padarayanapura BBMP ward corporator Imran Pasha and his followers, for assembling unlawfully while he was being shifted to a hospital on Saturday.

High drama prevailed when BBMP health officials reached the corporator's residence on Saturday to shift him to a hospital, after he tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. Based on a complaint filed by health officials, the police have booked the corporator and his followers for unlawful assembly, disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant and malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life and disobedience to quarantine rule.

Police said the corporator had behaved irresponsibly despite knowing that he was infected with covid and had moved around in public, posing danger to others. "No action can be taken against him now as he is in quarantine. Only after he recovers and is discharged from the hospital, we will initiate further action," an official said.

State wants to make 4 heritage cities 'smart'

Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura and Ballari may be on the list

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA has proposed to develop four heritage cities under the Smart City Project of the Union Government. Urban Development Minister B A Basavaraj has written to the Centre seeking to include Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura and Ballari under the ambitious project.

He said he will visit New Delhi soon with the proposal finalised by the state government.

While Mysuru boasts of the rich legacy of the Wadiyar dynasty, Vijayapura, known for its world famous Gol Gumbaz, was the administrative capital of the Adil Shahi sultans. Kalaburagi was the seat of Bahamani sultans and Ballari was connected to the Vijayanagara empire. The cities have historical monuments dating back many centuries.

Seven other cities – Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Davangere and Hubballi-Dharwad – are already being developed

under the Smart City Project.

If the Centre accepts the proposal, all the top 10 cities of the state after Bengaluru will come under the national project which aims at transforming urban clusters into "user-friendly" living spaces.

Basavaraj who wrote a formal letter to Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, said he has "big plans" to beautify the cities.

"The entire infrastructure will be upgraded and made user-friendly. Roads, footpaths, public transport, parks, street lights and the entire urban landscape will be improved," he said.

Former urban planning secretary Anjum Pervez who had taken up a lot of pioneering works under the project said, "The idea is to have integrated planning. Vancouver in Canada is an example of how good planning works. An entire unplanned space of the city was removed and redeveloped. Cities can be planned and managed better. Once networked, one can know how many street lights are working and commuting can be made easy through electric vehicles."

Another expert said, "The project will ensure that the cities are developed and important historical monuments, some of which date back five-six centuries, will be woven into the present... Vijayapura has the Gol Gumbaz, Ibrahim Rauza and other fascinating structures. Mysuru has the Palace and many other historical monuments, while Kalaburagi is known for Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah among others. They will be made easier to access which is currently an issue. Public transport and other infrastructure will all be developed under the concept."

ALL WORK, SOME PLAY

Shopkeepers take a break from their work and play a board game at KR Market on Sunday | MEGHANA SASTRY

Newbie ministers warm up to BJP workers

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH the old guard said to be maintaining some 'social distancing' from them and the newbie ministers showing warmth, the loyal BJP workers seem to be cosying up to the latter. The new ministers are those who jumped ships from the Congress and the JDS barely months ago.

Sources in the BJP said that cadres are said to be disappointed with some seniors like Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, DyCMs Laxman Savadi and Dr C N Ashwathnarayana and Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar for not appointing party workers as advisers or secretaries.

"At a time when the party workers were feeling neglected by our own leaders, the new ministers are calling cadres to give them responsibility and hear their woes," said a party source who has earlier worked with MPs, ministers etc.

Considering that they have lost a considerable chunk of supporters and workers when they shifted parties, the newbies like Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K Gopalaiah, Cooperation Minister S T Somashekhar and Urban Development Department Minister Byrathi Basavaraj seem to be creating a new support base.

"I am now part of BJP and it is my responsibility to respond to the requests of our workers and MLAs," said Basavaraj.

All is well in BJP: DyCM

Mysuru: Dismissing Oppn leader Siddaramaiah's claim that the BJP government in the state will collapse over infighting, DyCM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said, "All is well in the party and none will cross the Lakshman Rekha. He said the government is safe and strong. He expressed displeasure over party MLAs holding separate meetings. The minor differences should have been discussed in the party forum, he added. ENS

No rebellion, just met Katti, Ramdas: Nirani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOLLOWING intense speculation that there is a rebellion brewing within the party, BJP former minister and MLA Murugesh Nirani on Sunday clarified, "While it is true that I met party leaders S A Ramdas and Umesh Katti, it was not to launch any political rebellion. Also, we met over ten weeks ago. It is true that the meeting was held at my house, but politics was not discussed."

Murugesh Nirani, Bilgi MLA

He said, "I am close to both Ramdas and Katti. I invited them for a meal and there is nothing unusual about it." He also put out a message on social media sites to clarify his point.

Nirani said, "I urge the BJP national president and state leaders to accommodate Umesh Katti in the ministry. He is our senior-most MLA."

Umesh Katti told TNIE, "I have been staying in my constituency and shuttling between my home, farm and factory. The CM had promised my brother Ramesh Katti the Lok Sabha ticket, but we were denied the opportunity. Now, I have only asked for a Rajya Sabha seat. There is no question of rebelling, though there is some displeasure in some sections of the party."

Katti said, "I have been an MLA for eight terms and minister for 13 years already. I still have politics left in me and I will become a CM one day."

CRIME PATROL

30-year-old killed over illicit affair

A man was murdered in DJ Halli on Saturday. The police have launched a search for the accused. The victim, Subhan (30), is suspected to have had an affair with the wife of one Tabrej Syed which could be the reason for the murder. Police said it is suspected that Suban was killed elsewhere and the body was dumped near Shyampura Railway Gate. ENS

Speeding truck knocks down toll booth worker

Bengaluru: An employee of Navayuga toll booth was knocked down by a speeding truck on Saturday night. Police said Gopal (42) was washing his hands when the truck crashed into him and dragged him for 100 metres before ramming into an SUV. Nelamangala traffic police have arrested the truck driver, a resident of Salem, for reckless driving. ENS

Shri. Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Govt. of India

Online Inauguration
from New Delhi
By Hon'ble
Prime Minister
Shri. Narendra Modi

You can view the
live telecast on
https://www.rguhs.ac.in

Developing Scientific temper, Humanism and Spirit of inquiry and reform.

Shri. Vajubhai Vala
Hon'ble Governor
Karnataka

Shri. B. S. Yeddyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA

25th
FOUNDATION DAY - 2020 & SILVER JUBILEE
CELEBRATION

Date : Monday, June 1st 2020, Time : 11.00 a.m.
Venue : Dhanvanthri Hall, RGUHS, Bengaluru.

Dr. K. Sudhakar,
Hon'ble Medical Education Minister
participating in Online Training.

Dr. S. Sacchidanand
Vice-Chancellor, RGUHS, Bengaluru.

Shri Shivanand Kapashi, IAS
Registrar, RGUHS, Bengaluru.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 01.06.2020

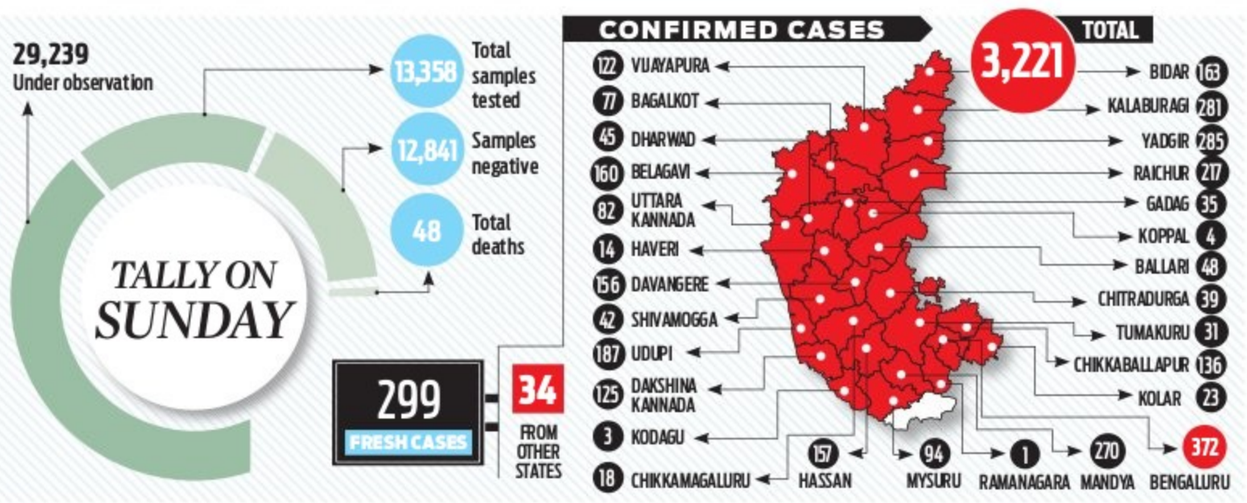
A part of Gurappanapalya, BTM Layout, Bengaluru, has become a containment zone again after a dentist tested positive for coronavirus. The area was a containment zone on April 19, but was later removed from the list on May 4.

221 NEW RECOVERIES

1,218 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too



CONTINGENCY PLAN PROJECTS 2 LAKH CASES IN K'TAKA

0.15 per cent of population in Bengaluru, 0.11 per cent in rest of state may be infected; State capital may see over 47,000 positives

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government's latest coronavirus contingency plan estimates that there could be 2 lakh corona patients in the state, which is much higher than the earlier projected figure of 87,196 cases. Resources will be mobilised as per these estimates, officials said.

In Bengaluru, 0.15 per cent of the population will be infected, while in rest of the state, 0.11 per cent of the people will be carriers of the virus. In all, 0.14 per cent of the population in hotspots will have the infection, the contingency plan states.

Of them, 15% of positive cases will require hospitalisation and 5 per cent ICU admission in Bengaluru, hotspots and the rest of Karnataka.

"The Department of Disaster Management has used the incidence of cases from four countries, which have comparable population connectivity, that are Italy, Iran, China and Spain. We chose to focus on these population centres, on the assumption that the introduction of COVID-19 was most likely to occur in international transportation hubs, and thus that these countries were most likely to be the focal points of initial COVID-19 transmission in the country," the contingency plan reads.

"Based on the incidence of Covid-19 in Lombardi of Italy, where it was around 13,000 cases per ten million population, the projection matrix is formulated for our state. We have projected a little on the higher side for Bengaluru because of its population connectivity and density," it adds.

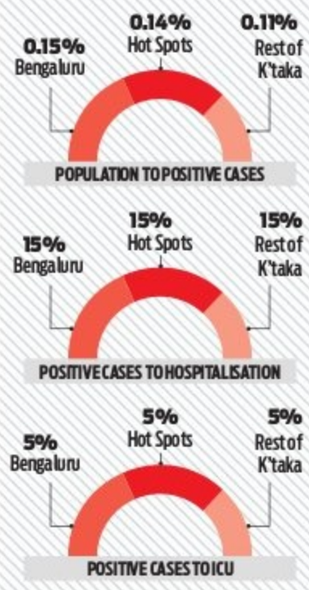
Bengaluru has the highest projection of coronavirus cases at 47,131 patients, followed by Mysuru at 13,172 patients and Belagavi with 12,587 cases.

"Right now, we have only used 25 per cent of our existing capacity. We have to consider home quarantine and shifting of patients to private hospitals if the load on government hospitals increases. An entire hospital will not be reserved for Covid as there are other diseases to treat as well. But as cases rise, more beds will be dedicated for Covid patients and there will be a dedicated wing for it," said Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department.

The contingency plan lists existing facilities that are ready, such as 20,000 beds available for positive cases, 528 fever clinics, 1,000 dedicated Covid hospitals, 10,27,821 N-95 masks supplied, 4,13,335 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) distributed and more.

The escalation matrix to track down cases follows the order of fever clinics, quarantine centres, isolation centres and designated Covid hospitals. From fever clinics, a person without Covid symptoms will be sent home. Those with symptoms will be sent for swab collection and then to quarantine centres. If they test negative, they will be sent home and if positive, they will be sent to supervised isolation centres and then to a Covid hospital.

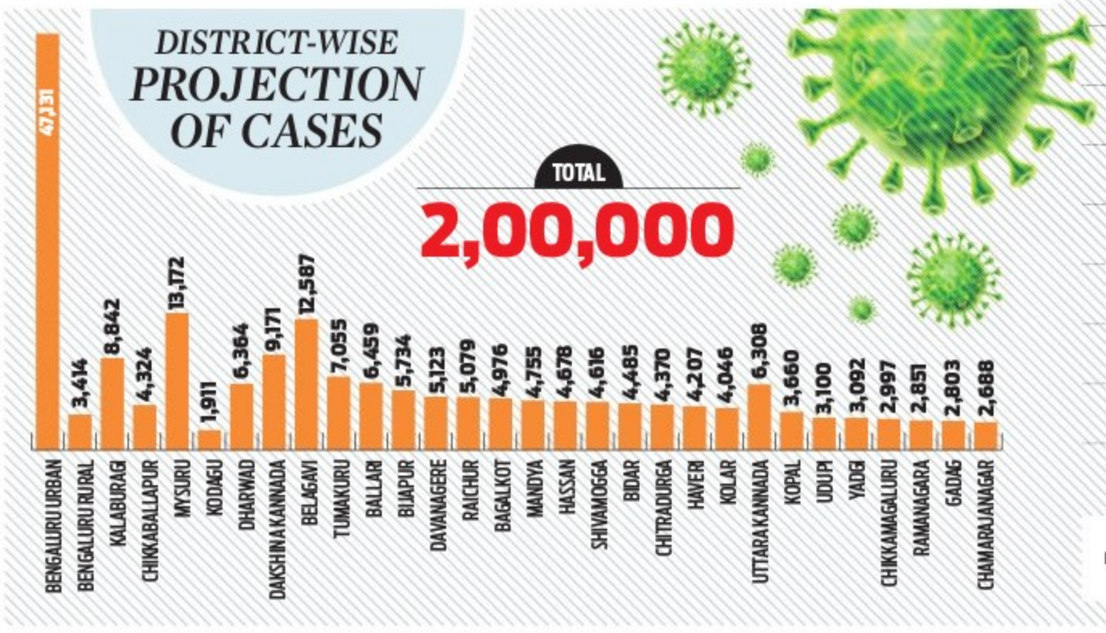
Doctors attend to patients at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN



CATEGORIES OF EXISTING FACILITIES

20,000	beds available for COVID-19 positive cases
528	Fever clinics
16,000	COVID care centres
1000	Dedicated COVID hospitals
10,27,821	N-95 masks supplied as on date
4,13,335	PPE Equipment
49,00,000	Triple layer masks
17,886	Viral Transport Medium
11,040	Rapid Testing Kits
3,11,323	HCQ tablets
41	Ventilators
03	Automated RNA extractor
385	RT-PCR kit
60	RMA extraction product
47,400	Pulse Oximeters
40,400	Thermal scanners

Doctors, specialists, nurses, assistants, ambulance staff — Available



Metro security personnel get trained on dos and don'ts ahead of services resuming in Bengaluru, on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

State crosses 3,000-mark; 1K jump in just a week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS the state crossed the 3,000 Covid-positive cases on Sunday, it laid bare the truth that the virus is gaining speed. While the jump from 1,000 to 2,000 cases took nine days, the next run from 2,000 to 3,000 happened in just a week.

The tally now stands at 3,221, with 52.34 per cent or 1,686 patients being travellers from Maharashtra. The state registered 299 patients on Sunday, making it the biggest single-day spike.

Two more persons died of coronavirus on Sunday, taking the death toll to 51. A 50-year-old man from Raichur, who had returned from Maharashtra, was under quarantine after being diagnosed with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness, pneumonia, sepsis and respiratory failure. He was admitted on Thursday and died the next day. The second fatality was of a 75-year-old man from a containment zone in Bidar. The patient, who had symptoms of fever, breathlessness and hypertension, was admitted on May 18 at a private hospital and died on Friday at his residence.

Bengaluru, which reported 21 cases on Sunday, crossed the 350-mark with 357 cases. Raichur saw the highest number of cases on Sunday with 83 new patients, followed by Yadgir with 44, Bidar 33, Kalaburagi 28 and Vijayapura 26.

Except for three cases, the rest of 80 patients in Raichur have come from Maharashtra. The situation was similar in Yadgiri, with one patient from Andhra Pradesh and the remaining 43 from Maharashtra. In Bidar, 26 out of 33 patients, in Kalaburagi all the 28 patients, in Vijayapura all the 26 cases and in Bengaluru, two out of 21 were travellers from Maharashtra.

A 38-year-old woman with SARI (P2180) from DJ Halli in Bengaluru has infected 14 people. Tests of four of them returned positive on Sunday, while 10 others tested positive on Saturday.

One returnee from Andhra Pradesh, three healthcare workers in Davanagere who were working at a Covid isolation ward, one from Madikeri, two returnees from Delhi, four travellers from Doha, two from Malaysia and one from Indonesia too tested positive.

On the brighter side, the state saw the highest number of discharges for a single day at 221 cases, with the highest from Bengaluru at 59.

TEMPLES OPENING ON JUNE 8

Bengaluru: Temples across the state will reopen on June 8, announced Muzrai Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary. He told TNIE that in a meeting with CM B S Yediyurappa, it was decided that temples would reopen on June 1. However, after guidelines from the Centre, they decided to shift the date to June 8. Social distancing, temperature scanners, masks, soaps, sanitisers and all other precautionary measures will be taken, Poojary said. He added crowding and jathras\utsavs won't be allowed. "Only the priest will be allowed into the sanctum sanctorum," he said. ENS

Kote Venkataramana Swamy temple being cleaned ahead of opening day | SHRIRAM BN

Damage done... Officials in Belagavi take time to inform positive villagers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

THREE people in Belagavi taluk, who were released from institutional quarantine on Friday, tested positive for coronavirus the same evening. But officials, in a serious lapse of protocol, informed the infected people and their families only on Sunday morning. By then, the positive patients had gone around the village and met several people.

Now, there is a sense of fear among villagers of Agasage.

Only on Friday, a KPCC member and his followers celebrated the release of these people from institutional quarantine by distributing sweets. Now villagers are angry that the political leader, instead of warning them about the dangers of coming in contact with these Maharashtra returnees, gathered a big crowd around them. The politician and his followers too are in fear of getting infected, sources said.

Tahsildar R K Kulkarni and other officials visited the villages and placed 19 people, who were released earlier and their primary contacts, under quarantine.

Kulkarni said, "Nine people from Agasage village, who had returned from Mumbai, were quarantined at a government school in the village. Since Covid rules changed, all were released on Friday. But they were told to stay home."

Fresh SOP for incoming inter-state travellers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Department of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday issued a protocol for travellers coming into Karnataka from other states during Unlock 1.0. Those who are symptomatic on arrival from any state need to remain in a dedicated Covid healthcare centre for seven days, followed by seven days of home quarantine. Tests will be immediately conducted, and if positive, they will be sent to a designated Covid hospital, and if negative, no further tests are required.

Asymptomatic cases returning from Maharashtra need to complete seven days of institutional quarantine followed by seven days of home quarantine. Tests will be done only if they develop symptoms during quarantine. However, they would be exempted for special reasons like a death in the family, elderly people, children below 10 years old, pregnant women, serious illnesses, human distress, or those who can go for a 14-day home quarantine.

Business travellers need to show a confirmed return flight or train ticket which should not be more than seven days from the arrival date. If they are travelling by road, they should provide the address of the people they are meeting in Karnataka. They also must have a Covid-19 negative certificate which is not more than two days old.

If one does not have a Covid-19 negative certificate, he/she is institutionally quarantined for two days, after which a Covid-19 test is conducted at his cost. If the results are negative, the person will be exempted from quarantine and no hand stamping is required.

Travellers from Maharastra with two days old Covid-negative certificate will be exempted from institutional quarantine and will be given permission for home quarantine of 14 days.

A transit traveller from Maharastra should show the ticket for the onward journey which should not be more than one day later from the date of arrival.

For those under 14-day home quarantine, tests should be conducted if they develop symptoms. People who can't go for home quarantine because of large families or lack of separate rooms or houses in slums can be in institutional quarantine.

During home quarantine in rural areas, posters will be put on the door and two neighbours will be informed, who should monitor them, while gram panchayats too keep a check. In BBMP and urban areas too, posters will be put up and neighbours informed. Ward level teams should update the quarantine watch app daily and a three-member team has to monitor the quarantined. Those who violate home quarantine rules will be slapped with an FIR.

Those who develop symptoms similar to Influenza like Illness during home quarantine should call Apthamitra helpline.

Migrant workers wait to board buses home at Majestic Bus Stand | PANDARINATH B

COVID WATCH

ASHA worker sexually assaulted while returning home

Chikkamagaluru: An ASHA worker from Sringeri, Chikkamagaluru district, on Covid duty was allegedly sexually assaulted by a youth. She described the incident on social media. "I was returning home when a youth blocked my path and tried to assault me. He dragged me forcibly, but I managed to escape and get home," she said. The woman's husband was out of town at the time, and only after he returned did the couple file a complaint at Sringeri police station. ENS

RTO to start issuing licences in orange and red zones

Bengaluru: The transport department has decided to restart issuing driving licences (DLs) and learner's licences (LLs) from Monday (June 1) in orange and red zones, as per the Centre's guidelines. The department had already been issuing licences in 16 districts which are listed as green zones. "Those who had booked slots earlier will get new ones. Offices will run only at 50% capacity, with precautionary measures in place," said N Shivakumar, Transport Commissioner. ENS

With 199 cases reported on Sunday, Telangana saw its highest one-day spike in Covid-19 cases. Of them, 196 cases were that of local transmission within the state, and three were migrants who came back home from other states

1,149 cases: TN records highest single-day spike

State reports 13 deaths as well; Odisha sees 129 more cases, Andhra 110

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai/T'Puram/Bhubaneswar/Vijayawada

TAMIL Nadu only seems to be breaking records in terms of the number of Covid-19 cases day-by-day. On Sunday, the state reported 1,149 new COVID-19 positive cases, the highest single day spike so far, and 13 deaths. Odisha also seems to be getting warmer as it reported 129 cases. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh recorded 110 cases and Kerala 61.

Tamil Nadu's tally now stands at 22, 333. Among the cases 95 are people who came from other states or countries, the highest number of people are from Maharashtra. Two from UAE and one from Myanmar tested positive. Among 13, four people who died had no co-morbidities.

The total number of Covid cases in Odisha has risen to 1,948, almost touching the 2,000 mark. Of the new patients, 119 had recently returned to the state from various parts of the country, while 10 others were detected with the infection as a result of contact-tracing, he said.

The new cases were reported from 19 districts. The maximum of 18 fresh cases were found in Kendrapara, followed by 16 in Gajapati, 12 in Nuapada, 11 in Bolangir, 10 each in Ganjam and Jajpur districts.

In Kerala, the number of active cases touched 670 on Sunday. Of the total cases, 20 came from abroad, 37 from other states and four due to local contact.A total of 15 people also recovered from the illness on the day. At the same time, ten places were declared hot spots.

The total number of cases in Andhra Pradesh shot up to 3,571 on Sunday. Two deaths were recorded in the past 24 hours taking the toll in the state to 62. Of the 110 fresh cases, 12 are people from other states, the media bulletin from the state command control room said.

Lockdown extended till June 30 in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: The state government on Sunday announced the extension of the lockdown till June 30, while offering certain relaxations for districts other than Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu from Monday. All private companies, including large factories and plants, outside Chennai city limits can function with full staff strength, while companies within the city limits can operate only with 50% staff. All educational institutions, coaching centres, places of worship, parks, gyms, swimming pools, malls, cinema halls, bars and tourist spots will remain closed till June 30. **ENS**

Move to remove 40 forest warriors irks many

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Bengaluru

Presently, Bhadra Tiger Reserve has 40 anti-poaching camps to protect and secure an area of 492 sqkm | EXPRESS

DESPITE the Centre's advisory not to remove any hired or contractual staff during the Covid-19 pandemic, Bhadra Tiger Reserve will be sending home some 40 field level forest warriors who work in the forefront of tiger protection. From each of the anti-poaching camps (APC), one daily wage watcher will be removed.

Bhadra TR is considered one of the best tiger reserves in the country with a tiger population of 40 and an elephant population ranging from 155-160 as also a healthy prey population. While its varied habitat ranges from rolling grasslands to deciduous moist to evergreen, it is considered the best as it has also received the utmost protection. Presently, it has 40 anti-poaching camps to protect and secure an area of 492 sqkm. The decision to remove one watcher from each camp has upset the environmentalists in this region.

According to Chikkamagaluru honorary wildlife warden G Veeresh, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a direct effect on the forest warriors. "Why should the poor watchers be removed? During the pandemic period, the Centre has clearly stated that no worker should be removed from his post. The APC watchers hailing from poor families will lose their livelihood and the forest department should re-think on their decision. Each watcher earns just Rs 9,000 per month while staying away from their families for many days."

Speaking to *TNIE*, Bhadra Tiger Reserve Field Director Dhananjaya S said, "Compared to other tiger reserves in the State, we have more APC and more number of watchers. Therefore, we are removing one watcher per camp. Last year, we had 39 camps and we added one more camp this year, taking the total number to 40. From four watchers per camp, we are reducing it to three."

APC watchers play a very crucial role at the field level in tackling and curbing hunting activities as also in the conservation of tiger habitat, said Veeresh. "There should be no compromise in APC activities and in fact, civil works can be stopped in tiger reserves this year. They can divert these funds for providing salary to these poor watchers." However, the director added that with huge deficit in the availability of local labour for plantation work, the watchers will not face much problems.

Why should the poor watchers be removed? During the pandemic period, the Centre has clearly stated that no worker should be removed from his post

Chikkamagaluru honorary wildlife warden G Veeresh

Chicken prices go up as consumption increases in K'taka

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE poultry industry, which went through its worst crisis due to the pandemic and fake news linking chicken consumption to novel coronavirus, is now picking up pace. The industry saw a loss of Rs 1,000 crore in the last one month alone. Now, with the myths busted, the sales have gone up from 10% to 60%. The chicken prices have skyrocketed from Rs 30 per kg to Rs 280.

Moinuddin, owner of Najma Chicken Stall Centre at Bhoopsandra, said, "I have been charging Rs 280 per kg for dressed chicken and Rs 180 per kg for live chicken. The farmers are selling the live chicken at Rs 150 per kg, which is why we have also been charging high prices as we have to pay the labourers too."

Another chicken stall owner said, "We had suffered huge losses when nobody was buying chicken. The price had dropped to Rs 30 per kg and then slowly increased to Rs 120 per kg which was still not good enough. There is a huge demand now and by charging high prices, we can compensate our losses."

But the supply is still low, said Dr Sudarshan Rai B, president, Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association. "When the rumours spread about the chicken being the likely source of coronavirus, people stopped buying and farmers culled their chicken. We will not be able to match the demand as of now. Yet, we can see that we are doing 60% better now. And we are losing out on the other 40% as many restaurants are still shut. Once they open up we can see profits coming."

Prasanna, chairman, Hathching Egg Committee, said that about Rs 20 lakh worth of eggs per day would be transported to different States from Karnataka, but now it has dropped to Rs 3-4 lakh."

Following complaints of high prices, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike had issued a circular on charging nominal prices -- Rs 125 per kg for live chicken, Rs 160 per kg for dressed chicken and Rs 180 for skinout chicken – and that action would be taken against the erring stall owners. However, the chicken shops are still selling at high prices.

Children, elderly advised to stay home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE district authorities have also been directed to identify buffer zones outside containment zones where new cases are likely to occur.

As regards movement of goods and people, there will be no restrictions and passes or special permission will not be required for inter- and intra-state movement. However, movement of people into Karnataka will be subject to orders of the Health Department in view of public health and the prevalence of Covid-19 in other states. Movement of Passenger and Shramik Special trains, domestic air passengers, stranded Indian nationals will continue to be regulated as per procedures.

People with co-morbidities, elderly people, children below 10 and pregnant women are advised to stay home while installation of the Aarogya Setu will be mandatory in offices and work places.

The circular states that persons violating the norms will be liable to proceedings as per Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act , 1950. Directives like wearing of mask, social distancing, ban on gatherings, smoking in public places or the use of non-smoking tobacco products at public places will continue to be in force.

Government of India
Dear Farmers...
India Stands By You
To mitigate the losses owing to the Corona pandemic
• Rs. 2 lakh crore have been allocated to provide additional concessional credit through Kisan Credit Card.
• Rs. 6000 is being given in three equal installments of Rs. 2000 each under PM-KISAN.
• 9.72 crore farmer families have been given Rs. 19,457 crore during the lockdown period.
Strengthening Farm-gate infrastructure, to increase farmers' income
• A scheme worth Rs. 1 lakh crore launched to strengthen cold storage chain and supply chain.
Creating better pricing structure for farmers
• In addition to the APMCs, several agriculture market reforms carried out to provide better market options. Farmers can now sell their crops anywhere and avail better prices.
• Amendments announced in Essential Commodities Act, APMC Act, Mandi Act to offer better price to Farmers.
• A scheme worth Rs. 10,000 crore is dedicated to over 2 lakh unorganized Micro Food Processing Enterprises. This will help in them establishing their own brand.
Standing by Fishermen
• A provision of Rs. 20,050 crore financial assistance has been made under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana to give an unprecedented boost to marine and inland fisheries.
For the Animal Husbandry Farmers
• A total of Rs. 15,000 crore have been allocated to revive the animal husbandry sector.
War Against Corona - Nation's Victory lies in your victory
"The crisis the world is facing today teaches us that way forward is - Aatmanirbhar Bharat (A self-reliant India)"
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
2M
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For more information, visit - transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharat
davp22112/13/0005/2021

EDITORIAL

Freedom of expression is the matrix, the indispensable condition, of nearly every other form of freedom

Benjamin N Cardozo

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

ABSURDITIES IN PLAY ON GLOBAL STAGE AMID PANDEMIC

A superpower that unilaterally offers to play honest broker with its direct competitor on behalf of a friend though the two biggies don't have the ability to resolve their own mutual differences. A wave of nationalism sweeping across the communist competitor as it stands accused of letting loose a killer virus. Ideological neutrality among both the big powers on hushing up their GDP data. Utilising social media extensively while dissing it. Such are the absurdities that are at play as the global community picks itself up to hopefully begin dusting off the worst-ever recession forced on it by the coronavirus pandemic.

US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between China and India on the Ladakh border face-off made no sense and was promptly fobbed off by both parties at loggerheads in near identical language. Stung by accusations of exporting the 'Wuhan virus' and using the WHO as its poodle, China did muscle flexing for territorial and geopolitical gains—explained off as nationalism—at a time when its neighbourhood and others were obsessed with containing the pandemic rather than exploring strategic interests. The result: The autonomy under the one nation, two territories norm that Hong Kong enjoyed for over two decades was extinguished, and neighbours and trading partners got to see the ugly face of the dragon. Trump promptly withdrew the special trading rights Hong Kong had with the US, dragged his country out of the WHO and imposed a range of sanctions against China.

Before the pandemic struck, the US economy was on a roll, expecting to grow further on the back of a big trade deal with China, making Trump's re-election seem a mere formality. That deal now is more or less dead. As the US economy tries to rise from the ashes of the pandemic that has killed more than 1 lakh of its citizens, the China factor could affect its bouncing back with a V-shaped growth. Trump has since tried to seize the initiative, provoking and backslapping, always looking to set the narrative. A no-holds-barred fight with Twitter is part of his strategy to become the central talking point. That is what he does best, and the Democrats are letting him play that game.

PROBLEMATIC 'GUEST' WORKERS LABEL

The worst thing we have done to the migrant workers of India—even beyond the lack of empathy to their plight—was to rebrand them as 'guest' workers. With just that one term, we have legitimised their exclusion from our microsocieties.

As 'guests' in their place of work, they do not enjoy the same freedoms and rights that locals do. Their hometowns too, in their absence, metamorphose into a different, alien land. In effect, they get reduced to being no land's men. Over the last month, this newspaper spoke to many migrant labourers who had walked or cycled hundreds of kilometres to Chennai from across Tamil Nadu, and planned to continue for another thousand to get to their homes in North and East India. Almost all of them said their problem was two-pronged. They were not just going because they had to get home to their families. They were going as this was not home. They felt no sense of belonging here. Beyond fellow migrants, they had no social support. Even when they were leaving by foot, they only got charity from strange volunteers. No help came from neighbours or employers. Many of them had been evicted from their homes and were unpaid by their employers when they left. Anticipating this, most migrant workers never considered resettling in their place of work along with their families. Schooling, they say, has always been a problem. Most free schools run by state governments are in the local language, which they can barely comprehend.

The need of the hour is inclusivity. Migrant workers must feel at home in the cities they help build. Governments must work towards this integration. Multilingual affordable schools, rent control policies and extension of free healthcare programmes to migrant labourers are needed to build inclusive cities. Over 2.5 lakh labourers fled Tamil Nadu, unable to withstand the lockdown trauma. Industries and businesses are now worried about labour shortage, and fall in productivity. And the root cause of this problem is that we treated migrants as 'guests'—invited or otherwise—who had to flee at the first sight of trouble.

Section 199 of the CrPC that deals with defamation has been abused by political executive of all colours from time to time to stifle criticism

THE STATE SHOULD LISTEN TO ITS CRITICS

KALEESWARAM RAJ

Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

AMIT BANDRE

The Madras High Court, in a recent verdict, exonerated a group of journalists of the charges of defamation over certain reports including those against the then chief minister of Tamil Nadu. Justice Abdul Quddhose said that "a public servant or a constitutional functionary must be able to face criticism" and that "the state cannot use criminal defamation cases to throttle democracy".

Section 199(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC) is a curious law. It enables the state and its functionaries to utilise the office of the public prosecutor to move a written complaint to the Court of Session and to prosecute people, claiming that the President, the Governor or a minister is defamed. Previous sanction of the government is essential for such complaints.

The phrase "defamation of a public functionary" is, to some extent, ironical. The text of the provisions needs deconstruction for a proper understanding of the offence. Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with the offence of defamation and it is the same offence that is referred to in Section 199 of the Cr.PC. The second exception to the IPC provision says that expression of an opinion, in good faith, concerning the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of public functions, or his character is not defamation. With this exception, the need to incorporate it in the Cr.PC and to arm the state with government machineries is indeed questionable. In cases of personal defamation, the concerned public functionary can move court personally without the aid of Section 199(2). This is clear from Section 199(6) of the Code. A public functionary is generally criticised for their public activities, which when done in good faith, is not defamation.

In Subramanian Swamy's case (2016), the SC refused to strike down the provisions relating to criminal defamation, which in turn kept Section 199 also alive. However, Indian experience shows that Section 199 has been abused by the political executive of all colours from time to time to suppress dissent and stifle criticism. It is also pre-censorship in disguise. It has a chilling effect on whistleblowers.

The argument that defamation as such should cease to be a criminal offence does not appear to be correct. As such, Sections 499 to 502 of the IPC have their own rationale and purpose. A private action for defamation by invoking penal provisions has justification insofar as it seeks to protect the individuals who are entitled to preserve their reputation. But the problem with Section 199 is it conceives public functionaries under the state as 'defamable' and motivates them to repress the dissidents with the instrumentalities of the very same state. Thus, every use of the law becomes a misuse, for it lacks democratic legitimacy.

The High Court's admonition is a great stimulus package to the free speech jurisprudence that badly needed it during the time of the pandemic. The verdict has lessons to offer for democracies across the globe during and after the pandemic. Studies indicate that more than hundred regimes in the world declared a state of emergency in one way or another after the spread of Covid-19. Free speech faces newer threats during the time of pandemic. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, openly warned against the dispensations worldwide from becoming illiberal and abusing the emergency power on the ground of medical exigencies.

> A private action for defamation by invoking penal provisions has justification insofar as it seeks to protect the individuals who are entitled to preserve their reputation. But the problem with Section 199 is it conceives public functionaries under the state as 'defamable' and motivates them to repress the dissidents with the instrumentalities of the very same state

The recent verdict also alerts the judiciary in India at a time when its top court is critiqued widely for almost going back to the infamous ADM Jabalpur moment. It was in ADM Jabalpur (1976) that the Supreme Court, by majority, held that the fundamental rights could be suspended during emergency, at the will of the political executive. On issues ranging from internet rights to the plight of the migrant workers, the top court had remained insensitive during the most precarious times.

In India, free speech faces several challenges. Even an innocent tweet, comment or speech is taken as the basis for booking people in different states irrespective of the party in power. Political leaders, public activists, journalists, students, writers and cartoonists are targeted. The politics based on such First Information Reports is essentially undemocratic. In many such cases, instead of Section 199 of the Cr.PC, the political governments use other devices in the IPC. There are outdated laws dealing with sedition (Section 124 A) or blasphemy (Section 295 A) that are misused. The nation needs a liberal reformative agenda to do away with such obsolete and dangerous remnants of the colonial regime.

Potential for misuse is not a legal ground to strike down the law (Shreya Singhal, 2015). Therefore, it is vital to ensure that freedom of speech is not unreasonably curtailed even during a state of emergency—financial, political or health. The European Court of Human Rights has laid down the correct proposition: "Freedom of expression ... is applicable not only to 'information' or 'ideas' that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive or as a matter of indifference, but also to those that offend, shock or disturb the State or any sector of the population" (Handyside v. United Kingdom, 1976).

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KERALA'S SUCCESSFUL BATTLE AGAINST THE VIRUS

PAUL ZACHARIA

Award-winning fiction writer

In a state perennially given to fruitless political strife, ingrained bureaucratic arrogance and rampant corruption, the sheer earnestness of Kerala's recent face-off with Covid-19 surprised Malayalis more than anyone else. In the post-Independence history of governance in Kerala, nothing similar had ever happened: The government actually made moves in a consistent manner to attend to the well-being of people. The handling of the massive floods in August 2018 had elements of this, but that was essentially an area-focussed, intensive rescue effort. The adversary, water, was right there under one's nose. The coronavirus, however, had put the whole state under its alien shadow—and it was invisible.

The response of the LDF government to the virus threat was remarkable in its determination and zeal. It is possible to argue that sheer existential terror brought about the shift from lethargy, incompetence and indifference—which has characterised governance in Kerala ever since the state came into existence—to committed involvement. There certainly could be truth in it. But even to channelise fear into a combat mode, a spark is needed. However much one may dislike to say it in times of totalitarian dreams sprouting everywhere including India, that spark could be leadership. The state everywhere is a leviathan with a hazy mind. It cannot be a leader. A person becomes the face of the state.

One can say emphatically that in the corona crisis, Kerala's CM Comrade Pinarayi Vijayan represented that leadership. He became the face of Kerala's corona resistance. His daily press conferences came to be more eagerly watched than The Ramayana reloaded. The person directly in charge of the Covid battle, Comrade K K Shailaja, the health minister, complemented Vijayan in her own unadorned but firm style. She is a natural leader minus the weight of seniority and patriarchal authority that Vijayan commands. In a Kerala that's slowly but inevitably shifting from its male supremacy paradigm, being a woman has only worked in her favour, if that mattered at all.

What sets both these communists apart from the usual politician, communist or non-communist, is a simple trait: a grave, no-nonsense approach to issues. If Vijayan is ponderous and magisterial, Shailaja is sprightly and unpretentious—and tough. Vijayan's style, along with obedience, triggers fear and caution. He has the additional advantage that he controls both the party and government—with an iron hand. That goes a long way in the smooth transmission of the processes of decision-making and implementation. You could call him a dictator if you wish. But the description wouldn't exactly fit, either. Shailaja's leadership has a feminine forcefulness that inspires teamwork. Both are communists first and communists last. Virus or no virus, the party comes first.

They've worked hard. And considering the corona predictions for the immediate future, it's going to be a long haul for them. Surely they must be enjoying the rewards—words of appreciation that rarely come a politician's way. Both Kerala and Shailaja hit international headlines several times. One suspects it was not just the spirited fight Kerala put up against the virus that attracted media attention. The capitalist media seems to have been fascinated by the fact that communists were accomplishing such a feat. And that a lady comrade was the field commander.

> What sets Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Health Minister K K Shailaja apart from the usual politicians is a simple trait: a grave, no-nonsense approach to issues. If Vijayan is ponderous and magisterial, Shailaja is sprightly and unpretentious—and tough

Ranged behind these two were the government personnel—thousands of officials, health workers and police who didn't go by the clock and often risked their lives in the physical handling of patients. In the no-man's land of Kerala's bureaucratic quagmire, health professionals had always stood apart as a different breed who, in general, stayed committed to their responsibilities to the people. They were the foot soldiers leading the corona fight from the front. The participation of thousands of women, in various capacities, gave the battle a different synergy. Platforms of women's empowerment like Kudumbashree and ASHA delivered priceless service. The police, not always extolled for humanitarian concerns, was exemplary in carrying out their new role as guardians of public health. Add to it over 2,00,000 volunteers who provided hands-on support at the grassroots.

That is only one part of the story. The other part derives from Kerala's historical tryst, in the sixties and seventies, with a development model born out of socialist ideals and democratic convictions. Arising from a humanist perception that could be described as Left and Gandhian, it sought to directly touch the lives of the people in key areas like education and health. That was how a multi-level healthcare network was created which, in a poor society like Kerala, produced results equalling developed nations in the human development index. Equally radical was the broadening and strengthening of democratic institutions at the ground level through a process of decentralisation in which women, for the first time, occupied key roles. These two networks of democracy, despite being battered by vested interests both inside and outside successive governments, have precariously survived and today they are the backbone of the fight against corona.

The success of Kerala's corona battle is much more than the sum of its parts. In the final analysis it was underwritten by the progressive values infused into the Malayali psyche by Kerala's historic Enlightenment spearheaded by great humanists like Narayana Guru and Ayyankali. Those values have survived murderous onslaughts by sectarian forces and underlie all civilisational leaps in Kerala. The corona fight was such a leap. it was an expression of Kerala's democratic commitment, however flawed; secular credentials, however bruised; communal harmony, however besieged; scientific temper, however cornered. That's why to each one of those women and men be they SC/ST, BC, Dalit, Hindu, Moslem or Christian who fought the corona war, it was beyond the pale of imagination to segregate hospital beds on a religious basis as happened elsewhere in India.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Covid cases keep on rising

There is a sure possibility of an increase in virus spread with Unlock 1.0. More and more cases are being reported daily from all across the country. The question is whether the nation is prepared to face the challenges as the fight against the virus is far from over.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Living with the virus

This is with reference to the article *Trust people and scrub fear wave* (May 31). The article makes a sensible point. It is high time people learnt the basics to counter corona spread. The government should now concentrate on the effects of the pandemic such as the shattered economy, hunger and unemployment. Let the nation learn to live with the virus till it fades away.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Profiting from pandemic

The Tamil Nadu government should release complete details about the amount of money to be paid by Covid-19 patients who visit private hospitals. The recent reports about the huge amount of money, several lakhs of rupees, demanded for treatment by some private hospitals should prompt the government to initiate official enquiries in this matter. A serious point to be noted is that politicians belonging to all parties control many corporate hospitals.

M Vathapureeswaran, Erode

Addiction to online games

During the lockdown, many youngsters have become addicted to online games like PUBG. Awareness should be spread about the dangers of such addictions for the welfare of our nation.

G Stephen, Tirunelveli

Wise move by Odisha govt

The Odisha government has decided to create two industrial parks including a medical park at Dhenkanal along with rehabilitation schemes for migrant workers. These are wise steps. The government could consider using closed industries such as the unused spinning mill in Dhenkanal for this purpose to save on capital.

Nani Gopal Singh, Cuttack

Improved implementation

This is with reference to *Modi 2.0: Mastering the art of implementation* (May 30). The points made are correct. For instance, before 2014, though 12 LPG cylinders were provided by the government in a year, we could hardly get six or seven due to delays. But now, we are able to get all 12 allotted cylinders.

Braja Kishor Maharana, Bellaguntha

Dedication of Kerala nurses

This is with reference to *55 Malayali nurses to fly to Ireland from Kochi* (May 31). The boldness of these health workers and their dedication to serve humanity in the midst of the worldwide coronavirus crisis, knowing fully well the risks involved, is to be appreciated. Moreover this would serve as an inspiration for other aspiring health workers.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Negligent hospitals

This is with reference to *Child dies of dog bites after 4 hosps refuse treatment* (May 31). This is a sad reflection on the working of hospitals that showed no empathy even during an emergency. Strict action must be taken against all the hospitals over this negligence.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

A great personal crisis

I was profoundly touched when I read the news story of a young Chennai boy who is alone after he lost his otherwise healthy father recently due to Covid-19. His mother has been housed at a care facility (*Uninvited 'guest' takes away parents, leaves boy alone at home, May 31*). Our earnest prayers are there for the boy to overcome this great personal crisis and lead a glorious life in the future.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Locusts & the missing birds

Amid the pandemic, many states are now facing or gearing up to tackle the locust invasion. Birds such as sparrows were the natural predators of locusts. The major problem now is that bird numbers have dropped these days.

Iniyavan Abdullah S A, Madurai

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We welcome the new guidelines issued under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji for the phased ending of nationwide lockdown —Yogi Adityanath, UP Chief Minister

NAMASTE TRUMP

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut alleged that the event held to welcome US President Donald Trump in February was responsible for the spread of coronavirus in Gujarat

76 fresh +VE CASES IN RAJASTHAN

TRACKING COVID-19

LOSS OF WORK

More than 1 in 6 young people have stopped working since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic

23% Those who remain employed have seen their working hours cut by 23 per cent

4.8% decline in working hours lost during Q1 2020

135 million

This decline is equivalent to approximately 135 million full-time jobs, assuming a 48-hour working week

Biggest losses in hours worked in Q2

AMERICA	13%
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	12.9%

Source: International Labour Organization

India records steepest single-day spike in cases

Statistics show in Mumbai alone, deaths have crossed 1,000-mark

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

A medic collects a sample for Covid-19 test in Gurugram on Sunday | PTI

THE rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, which has been registering a new high almost every day now, crossed the 8,000-mark on Saturday, registering the steepest 24-hour spike so far.

India recorded 8,380 fresh Covid-19 cases within a 24-hour span and total confirmed cases reached 1,82, 143 on Sunday morning of whom 5,164 patients have already succumbed to the infection. Of these, 193 deaths were reported within a day, according to figures by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The statistics show that in Mumbai, the number of deaths have crossed 1,000-mark and have reached 1,097. It means more than 21 per cent, or one in five, of all those who succumbed to Covid-19 in the country was from Mumbai.

The city also has the highest number of active cases in the country which is in excess of 24, 513. As India has a total of 89,995 active cases, in percentage terms, this also indicates that the city has over 27 per cent of country's total active cases.

Overall, 70 per cent of total infection cases are concentrated in 30 cities that include major ones like Delhi, Chennai, Ahmadabad, Pune, Kolkata, Surat, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Indore, Udaipur and Agra among others, apart from Mumbai. In Maharashtra, where the total confirmed cases have reached 65, 168, 99 deaths were reported overnight. The state has seen a total of 2,197 deaths due to the infectious disease so far

In second worst hit Tamil Nadu, where the total confirmed cases are 21, 184, the death toll has reached 160. Delhi, which has the third highest confirmed cases continues to have the highest death rate per million which is now close to 21. In the state the incidence per million is also above 920—more than eight times the national average.

Worryingly the country wise incidence per million has risen to almost 126. This figure was just 110 till recently. The only relieving news is the fact that the infection recovery rate is also steadily rising with some states doing better than others.

Corona: Guj man cremated, kin confused after hospital call

Hours after they performed the last rites of a 71-year-old man who died as a "coronavirus suspect", his kin received a call from a government hospital in Gujarat's Ahmedabad saying his sample had tested negative and, hence, they should shift him to a non-coronavirus ward. The call led to panic and confusion among relatives of deceased Devram Bhosikar who worried if they had cremated the right person as they had not seen the face since the corpse was wrapped as per coronavirus protocol. The Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, where the man died, had, however, correctly confirmed his identity. The family then got a call from a operator at the hospital on May 29 night informing them the man's report was negative and that they should now shift him to the non-coronavirus ward at the facility.

144 stranded Indians from Kiev land at Chandigarh

A special flight from Ukraine capital Kiev carrying 144 stranded Indians landed here on Sunday under the Centre's Vande Bharat Mission. Two passengers were from Chandigarh, 54 from Himachal Pradesh, 53 from Haryana, 34 from Punjab and one from Rajasthan. All precautionary measures related to COVID-19 were at place at the international airport here to handle the incoming passengers. They were screened by Punjab Health Department authorities and subsequently handed over to respective states after immigration and customs clearances. Afterwards, all passengers were sent to quarantine as per protocol issued by respective states, they said. On May 22, an Air India special flight from New York carrying 100 passengers who belonged to Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh had landed at the Chandigarh International Airport.

PRAYERS

A priest performs puja at a studio in Kolkata after the authorities permitted to open studios from June 1 | PTI

IIM-Ranchi staff tests positive, Jharkhand tally reaches 595

An official working at Indian Institute of Management-Ranchi has been tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday. The campus, which is temporarily being run at 'Suchna Bhawan' near the official residence of CM Hemant Soren, also includes the Covid-19 control room. The area also houses several other state government offices. Confirming the case at IIM-R, Principal Health Secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni stated that the total count of positive cases in the state has increased to 595, he said. According to officials in the health department, after testing positive, the staff came forward to inform the authorities following which he was taken to an isolation ward at RIMS in Ranchi. Meanwhile, the district administration is trying to find out the primary contacts of the staff for testing.

WEST BENGAL

Protests against govt's decision on quarantine

PRANAB MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE West Bengal government's decision of making institutional quarantine mandatory for migrants returning from five states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — which are worst-hit by Covid-19 received a jolt after the local residents staged large-scale protests at 15 places in past 24 hours.

At many places, demonstrations by locals forced the administration to abandon the plan of using the buildings of the educational institutes as quarantine centres. Migrants from these hot-spot states were kept at bus-stands, crematoriums and under makeshift tents in open fields.

Earlier, West Bengal chief minister announced returnees from the worst-hit states will be to spend 14 days at state-run quarantine centres. Migrants from other states, including those with mild symptoms of coronavirus infection, will be at home quarantine for two weeks.

"Lakhs of migrants are returning Bengal. The state home department gave us an estimate of nearly 17 lakh people stranded in other states. More than 6 lakh people are stranded in the five hot-spot states who are returning Bengal. Since their institutional quarantine has been made mandatory, we have no option left other than using schools and colleges as quarantine centres," said state health department official.

According to records available with the state health department, more than 5 lakh migrants already returned from other states.

J&K: Govt yet to pay hotels for use as isolation facilities

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER the Jammu and Kashmir administration hired hotels to use them as quarantine facilities, the hoteliers — who have already suffered heavy losses due to restrictions imposed after August 5 scrapping of J&K's special status — had expected some economic relief. However, the hoteliers say government has not yet paid them for hiring their hotels.

Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners Federation president Abdul Wahid Malik said the administration invoked the Disaster Management Act on March 18 to take over about 140 hotels in Srinagar and Gulmarg to be used for quarantine purpose. "We suffered further losses by making hotels operational. I had to spend ₹10,000 a day on providing warm water for 24 hours, as mandated, in all 55 rooms of my hotel. The hotel's March electricity bill surged to ₹88,000 and so far I have not received a single penny from the government," he said.

Malik said when the administration took over their hotels, the officials did not fix any rate. "However, Srinagar Deputy Comm Shahid Iqbal Choudhary had assured us of compensating at reasonable rates," he said. "We will be meeting officials on Monday and hope the rate is fixed and compensation released," he said.

STATE PULSE

APPOINTMENT OF MEHTA STIRS A HORNET'S NEST

After more than two months of political inactivity caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, there has been some political heat in the past two days in the national capital after it was revealed that the Delhi government had approved the appointment of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta as its counsel in a Delhi riots case.

Last week, the government submitted to the Delhi High Court that it had cleared Mehta's name, prompting a fierce attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Leading the charge were Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav, Kejriwal's one-time cronies and brothers in arms when the Aam Aadmi Party was still a fledgling political outfit.

They charged the CM with being hand in glove with the Centre on the probe into the Delhi riots. The investigation by the Delhi Police, which is controlled by the Centre, into the violence that engulfed the city in February is widely seen as being biased.

The allegation against the police is that while they have charged many lightweights for the riots, several ruling Bharatiya Janata Party leaders such as Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra have gone scot free.

Now with the appointment of Mehta, the Central government's top law officer, as its counsel, Kejriwal has opened himself to attack from his critics. Remember, just days before Delhi government made Mehta its counsel, the SG did not cover himself with glory during the hearing in the Supreme Court on the migrant workers.

Mehta compared the litigants and activists fighting for the migrant labourers to vultures, who prey on the weak and the dying. He has been widely panned for these comments.

Officially, there has been no comment from the Delhi government on Mehta. But Kejriwal should come clean on this. As it is, many felt that he did not do enough when the riots were going on in the city. Other than statements and meetings, not once did he go on the ground to provide succour and words of comfort to the riot-affected.

Although the Delhi Police does not report to his government, many felt he could have done better in relief and rehabilitation. He also has not raised his voice against the patently biased probe.

Even in the ongoing pandemic and the massive migrant crisis, he did not reach out directly to the poor people. Not once did he visit and inspect the conditions in which the thousands of migrant workers lived or tried to go home by train.

In the burning heat of May, without any protection from the sun, thousands of migrants with their young children lined up for a medical check-up before being herded on to trains for the journey home.

A government that projects itself as representing the *aam aadmi*, it could have done better.

H KHOGEN SINGH
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PM cautions against letting down guard against Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRAISING the efforts of fellow citizens who are helping others at the time of pandemic, PM Narendra Modi in his monthly radio broadcast *Mann ki Baat* said each citizen should be emphatic towards the pain and suffering of migrant workers who were the worst hit because of Covid-19.

At the same time, he cautioned people against letting down their guards with gradual re-opening of the economy and asked them to be "extra alert and careful" so that after such "austere penance", the country's deft handling of crisis does not go in vain.

Acknowledging that the poor and labourers, especially migrants, had been hit the hardest, Modi said "their sufferings can't be expressed in words".

Everyone is working to help the poor and labourers, he said

and praised the efforts of the railways in transporting the migrants back home. "From the Centre, states, to local governance bodies, everybody is toiling around the clock. The way our railway men are relentlessly engaged, they too are frontline corona warriors."

Stressing the need of following the Covid protocols more religiously, the PM cautioned, "Whether it is the mandatory 'do gaz ki doori (two yards of distancing), wearing face masks or staying at home to the best extent possible, there should be no laxity on our part in complete adherence (to the laid down norms)... We must not let this fight weaken. Becoming careless or lackadaisical cannot be an option."

On his call for an 'atmanirbhar' or self-reliant India, Modi said people had now made it their own movement and had started buying only local products.

He also spoke about AYUSH ministry's initiative to organise an online yoga competition and urged the countrymen to participate in large numbers. Talking about Ayushman Bharat, PM said one over crore families had benefited from the scheme and the "honest taxpayer" deserved the credit of this altruistic deed.

Day 1 of special train service: 1.45L to travel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Railways on Sunday said it will begin operations of 200 special trains from June 1 and more than 1.45 lakh passengers will travel on the first day. It also said around 26 lakh passengers have booked for Advance Reservation Period (ARP) from June 1 to June 30. These services will be in addition to Shramik Special trains and 30 Special AC trains being run since May 12.

Passengers will have to reach station at least 90 minutes before departure and only travellers with confirmed or RAC tickets will be allowed to enter railway station and board trains, the Railways said. According to MHA guidelines, all travellers will be compulsorily screened and only asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to enter or board a train.

However, hours before the Railways began operating 200 special passenger trains, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra expressed reservations over the services planned from June 1. Sources said a high-level meeting is underway at the railway headquarters to resolve the matter. They indicated the three states have raised concerns over the rising cases of the coronavirus as the reason behind their opposition to movement of trains.

Sources said Jharkhand requested that four trains to the state be dropped, while 20 others have fewer stoppages. Andhra Pradesh said only 22 trains should come to the state and it, too, asked for reduced number of stoppages, for now.

With PTI inputs

GOODNESS FOR GOODNESS

Bihar locals win hearts by helping Mizos on train

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THREE days ago, some stranded Mizos, travelling home from Bengaluru, had offered packets of food to Assam flood victims from a moving train. Their gesture had won the hearts of netizens.

The victims, believed to be from Goalpara, were displaced in the year's first wave of flood in Assam and were taking shelter on railway tracks.

Now, another heartwarming video has gone viral on the social media. It shows the locals in Bihar's Begusarai rushing to a stationary train and offering food to the passengers. The Shramik Special Train was travelling to Guwahati in Assam carrying another batch of stranded Mizos from the mainland.

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga was all praise for this act of benevolence by the people from Bihar.

Sharing the video on Twitter, he wrote: "Few days after stranded Mizos offered their food to flood-affected victims on their way back, a brief halt of their #ShramikSpecialTrain at #Begusarai Bihar witnessed good #Samaritans offering them food in return! Goodness for goodness. #India is beautiful when flooded with #Love".

After watching the video shared by Zoramthanga, a user wrote: "Tears of joy! This is the spirit of India. Thanks for sharing Sir". Another user wrote: "It's really beautiful and may God bless them from Covid while offering each other at the same time only". Mizoram's Sports Minister Robert Romawia Royte was equally effusive of both acts.

"The noble acts of the travelling Mizos distributing food items to Assam flood victims and a few days later, the Begusarai's Biharis offering food packets to the stranded Mizos travelling from Bangalore deserve appreciation...Love heals always," Royte said.

The noble acts of the travelling Mizos distributing food items to Assam flood victims and a few days later, the Begusarai's Biharis offering food packets to the stranded Mizos from Bengaluru deserve appreciation

Robert Romawia Royte, Mizoram's Sports Minister

JAWANS INFECTED

Six persons, including four personnel of the Railway Protection Force and Home Guard, tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday in Maharashtra's Amravati district.

60K PLEDGE TO TO FOLLOW COVID NORMS IN RAJASTHAN

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	30	Mumbai	36	28
Bhopal	40	27	Panaji	30	26
Jaipur	36	24	Patna	35	24
Amritsar	32	23	Lucknow	38	24
Chennai	39	29	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	35	25	Imphal	27	20
Srinagar	35	22	Chandigarh	33	23

TRACKING COVID-19

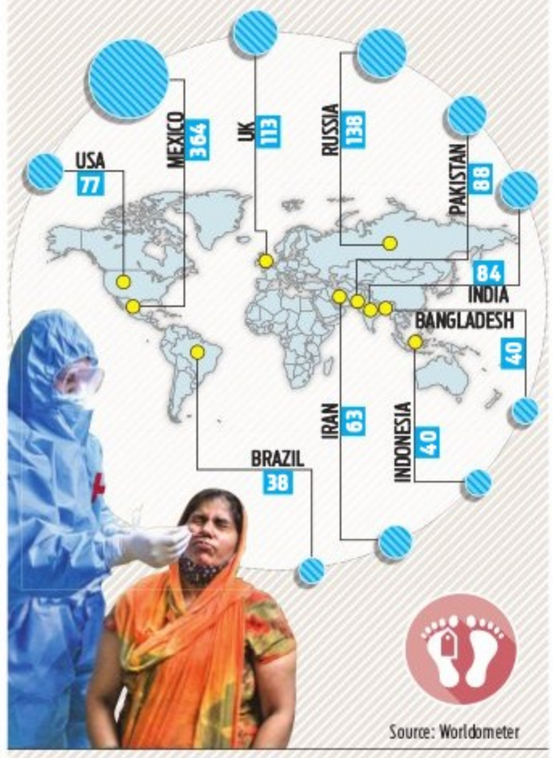
FIR against 35 agitating docs who violated lockdown rules

RANCHI: An FIR was lodged against 35 junior doctors of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi for violating lockdown rules while demanding the arrest of a senior colleague for trying to rape a junior serving in the Covid ward of the hospital. "The FIR was lodged for violating lockdown rules and gathering in the premises of the Bariatu police station without maintaining social distancing," said a police officer. People are being identified on the basis of video footage available with police, he added. According to statement recorded by the lady doctor, after the duty hours on Wednesday night, the senior doctor came to her room and switched off lights and tried to assault her sexually. Police, on the basis of the statement recoded by the victim, the senior doctor has been booked under sections 376 (rape) and 511 (attempt to commit an offence) of the IPC.

Final year university exam cancelled in Maharashtra

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday announced that hisgovernment decided to cancel the final-year examinations of university and that students would be given average marking on the basis of their past exams results. Earlier in the day, Uddhav met with several university vice-chancellors to consult about the examinations of final-year students. Over eight lakh students in their final-year of graduations will niot to have sit for their exams, he said. "Today, we are not in a position to conduct the exams. The new academic year is starting so we don't want students miss their educations and career opportunity. Those students who are not satisfied with their mark of last semester can petition to upgrade their mark once the situation is normal," the CM said, highlighting the harsh situation facing the state.

COUNTRIES THAT REPORTED HIGHEST NEW DEATHS



Source: Worldometer

529 domestic flights operated on Saturday: Puri

A total of 529 flights carrying 45,646 passengers operated on Saturday, said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday. Domestic services were suspended in India due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown and resumed after a gap of two months on Monday. Indian carriers operated a total of 2,340 flights till Friday -- 428 on Monday, 445 on Tuesday, 460 on Wednesday, 494 on Thursday and 513 on Friday. Puri said on Twitter on Sunday: "Domestic operations on 30th May 2020 (Day 6) till 2359 hrs. Departures 529. 45,646 passengers handled. Arrivals 530. 45,622 passengers handled." During the pre-lockdown period, Indian airports handled around 3,000 daily domestic flights, aviation industry sources said. In February, when the lockdown was not imposed, around 4.12 lakh passengers travelled daily through domestic flights in India,

Devotees hold chariot wheels during preparation for Rath Yatra at Jagannath temple in Surat on Sunday | PTI

A worker arranges mannequins at a shop re-opened in Kolkata on Sunday | PTI

UNLOCK 1.0: STATES COME OUT WITH GUIDELINES

Most of them are similar to the central guidelines issued Saturday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A day after the Centre announced Lockdown 5.0 till June 30 with three-phase easing of restrictions, various states came out with their blueprints for relaxing the curbs.

The Uttar Pradesh government's guidelines for 'Unlock Phase 1' largely followed the Centre's line with a few modifications. Restrictions in containment zones will continue till June 30, but curbs in other areas will be lifted with mask and social distancing being must.

From June 8, supermarkets, shopping malls, hotels and restaurants will be allowed to open outside containment zones from 9 am to 9 pm, but large public gatherings will remain banned. A maximum of 30 people will be permitted at weddings and 20 at funerals.

Schools and colleges will remain closed till July 20. International flights and metro rail services will also remain suspended. State transport buses, taxis and cabs will be allowed to ply with limited number of passengers. Complete restrictions will continue on swimming pools, multiplexes and gymnasiums abut salons and beauty parlours can operate.

In offices, 100 per cent attendance of staff will be allowed but in three shifts. Consumption of liquor, paan, gutkha, tobacco at public places will remain prohibited and spitting will be punishable with fine.

In Maharashtra, which is the worst-hit state, the government under its 'Mission Begins Again' announced opening of market, industry and outdoor activities, but shopping malls and religious places will remain shut.

Government and private offices will start with minimum staffers. Barber shops, salon and spa will remain shut while service providers like electrician and plumbers will be allowed to work. Home delivery service of liquor will continue.

Outdoor physical activities like exercise, cycling, jogging, running etc. are permitted in open places between 5 am to 7 pm. But swimming pool, gym, cinema and sports complex will remain shut.

Intra-state travel will be allowed for emergency and essential services. The use of mask is mandatory. Private and government offices will function with 10 per cent and 15 per cent staffers from June 8. Construction and industrial activities will be permitted in all but contaminated areas.

In Rajasthan, the metro, educational institutions, malls and religious places will stay closed, but shops can open. Not more than 50 people can gather at wedding functions while up to 20 people can attend a funeral.

Punjab passes similar order

The Punjab government ordered opening up of shops, including barber shops, beauty parlours, spas, between 7 am and 7 pm from Monday in the non-containment zones. Liquor vends can remain open from 8 am to 8 pm.

No new tax to fight Covid as revenues are going up: Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

PROMISING to impose no new tax for additional mop up as revenue collection was showing an upward trend after lifting curbs on industrial activity last month, UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that the unlocking of lockdown from Monday would focus more on the management of the containment zones.

Industrial and commercial activities were picking up and it would gather momentum as 'unlocking' begins from June 1, he said.

The government was expediting economic and industrial activities, including the mega expressway and dedicated freight corridor projects, he said. "We will be focusing on the containment zone strategy and to break the corona virus chain to curb the spread of the disease."

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath

He claimed the state was getting investment proposals post-covid, including an investment by a German company. "We have constituted a dedicated team and a group of ministers to draw the investors. We have set up exclusive desks for pursuing investments from the US, South Korea and Japan."

On the issue of migrants, Yogi reiterated his government's committed to provide jobs to all hands by reenergising the MSMEs and other segments. "Even during the lockdown, several industries collectively employing about 2.5 million workers were operating. An additional 2.7 million workers are employed in MSME sector, while another 65,000 work force is engaged by big industries," the CM said.

Cyclonic storm likely to hit Gujarat, Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

A low pressure area formed over Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep is likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm and reach Maharashtra and Gujarat next week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

"It is very likely to concentrate into a depression during the next 24 hours and intensify further into a cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours," a senior IMD official said. "It is likely to move nearly northwards and reach near north Maharashtra and Gujarat coasts by June 3."

Fishermen who have ventured into the Arabian sea along the north and south Gujarat coasts should return by Sunday and not go out till June 4, the IMD said on Sunday.

A low pressure area and a depression are the first two levels on the IMD's eight-category scale used to classify cyclones based on their intensity.

The IMD forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall over south coastal Maharashtra for June 2-4, on north coast on June 2-3 and in Gujarat, Daman and Diu and Dadar and Nagar Haveli on June 3-5.

The Ahmedabad met-centre advised hoisting of "distant cautionary (DC)-1" storm warning signals at all ports on north and south Gujarat coasts, as the sea condition was very likely to be "rough to very rough," with wind speed reaching 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 mph by June 4.

Taj Mahal railing collapses due to storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A railing of the Taj Mahal collapsed during a storm on Friday, ASI officials said.

The nine-feet railing fell down damaging some marble stones, they said, adding that there was no damage to the main structure of the monument.

"Near the entry point, there are ticket counters which were built in 2018. The false ceiling there suffered damages. In the west side of the premises, there is damage on the base stone," said an official. The ASI conducted a review and estimated that the damages are between ₹20 and ₹25 lakh. "The marbles come from Makrana in Rajasthan. The renovation work would take around 20-25 days. However, it is not definite yet when the work can start," the official added.

HEALTH WORRIES

FORMER CICs SEEKS RELEASE OF ACTIVIST

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWO former Central Information Commissioners appealed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to release poet, writer and activist Varavara Rao on humanitarian grounds from prison.

After being initially kept at Yerawada jail in Pune, Rao was later shifted to Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai in connection with the Bhima Koragaon case. The letter emphasised that before being taken in to judicial custody, Rao suffered from multiple health issues including piles, thyroid, prostate gland enlargement, coronary artillery issue, acidity and migraine synesis.

Rao fell ill on May 29 and was shifted to J J Hospital in Mumbai. His family members were not kept in the loop about his ill-health until the JJ Hospital released a bulletin that his vitals were normally functional, the letter said.

If the trial cannot be speedily completed, Rao should be acquitted, former CICs Shailesh Gandhi and M Sridhar Acharyulu wrote.

The letter urged that Rao should be released immediately and his bail should not be opposed. In the interim period, he should be shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad. If this is not permitted, the family should be allowed to travel and visit him in the hospital or allowed video-conferencing. The medical conditions and diagnostic reports should be disclosed and the medical status report should be given to the court on June 2, it said.

The magistrate, who is hearing the case, has been seeking Rao's medical report but it was not submitted. The court adjourned the case again for his medical report to be submitted on June 2, the letter said.

The certified copies of files relating to the investigation available with the police or the state Home Minister should be shared within 48 hours, it said.

Nepal tables amendment to adopt new map with 3 disputed territories

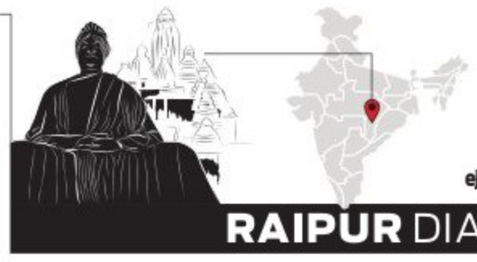
NEW DELHI: Nepal on Sunday tabled the constitutional amendment bill seeking to include disputed territories of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in its new map.

Once passed by the Nepali Parliament and signed by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, the amendment will give constitutional backing to new map. The amendment was tabled after the main Opposition party, the Nepali Congress, on Saturday decided to back it, clearing the way for its passage.

People gathered outside Parliament did not allow the Indian envoy who had reached there to see the session reports enter the complex, local media reported. *ENS*

Alert on locust army

Officials and farmers at districts adjoining Maharashtra and MP are on alert after an army of locusts is believed to have reached the border areas. The officials apprehend that swarms of locusts might enter Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Koriya anytime soon. Authorities are already taking pre-emptive measure. Besides taking precautionary measures, farmers were advised to use pesticides like malathion, fenvalerate and quinalphos to save crops from locusts. Villagers are being told to from groups and create loud noise by beating *thalis (*steel plates), tin boxes and other sound-producing instruments to drive away the pest.



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

RAIPUR DIARY

No hike in power tariff

Offering relief to its consumers, the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) announced no change in the new power tariff plan for 2020-21, to be effective from June 1. Amid the Covid pandemic, the decision is seen as a major relief to the consumers. "Despite fall in revenues owing to the Corona crisis, we are trying to cope-up with financial crunch without passing on additional burden on power consumers," said additional chief secretary and Chhattisgarh Power Companies chairman Subrat Sahoo. Domestic consumers are already getting an automated reduced power bills by 50 per cent for power consumption up to 400 units. Anything beyond it are charged on normal rates.

Reviving glory of handloom

Bilasa, the State Handloom Emporium, and the government-backed state level cooperative federation provide continuous employment opportunities and fair wages to co-operative weavers throughout the year. Over 18,000 handlooms are now working and over 54,000 people are securing employment. Traditional Tussar and Ghicha silk fabrics, cotton and hand embroidered silk sarees, natural dyed products, silk suit piece and shawl besides printed bedsheets and various cloth materials have helped the weavers who are also guided to create contemporary creations. "Their works getting widely appreciated and national recognition", said Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, principle secretary.

Ajit Jogi laid to rest

Chhattisgarh's first chief minister Ajit Jogi was laid to rest at a Christian cemetery in his native place Gaurella with full state honours. The bureaucrat-turned-politician passed away on Friday after battling for life at a Raipur private hospital for 20 days. Apart from his close family members and friends, the interment was attended by senior leaders from across party lines. With lockdown in place, only close family members and a few dignitaries were allowed to attend the burial at Jyotipur cemetery. Jogi had formed a regional outfit in 2016 and the 2018 Assembly polls was his last electoral battle from Marwahi seat in Bilaspur which he had won.

40 million

children aged 13 to 15 years using tobacco products globally, the WHO said on Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	20	SNY	Los Angeles	23	14	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	17	11	LC
Doha	41	27	SNY	Moscow	24	12	TDS
Dubai	41	31	SNY	New York	28	15	LC
Houston	33	21	SNY	Singapore	32	26	LR
Istanbul	21	14	LC	Toronto	19	7	LC
London	25	12	SNY	Washington DC	29	15	LC

JERUSALEM

Gantz apologises over killing of Palestinian man

Israel's defense minister Benny Gantz apologised on Sunday for the Israeli police's deadly shooting of an unarmed, autistic Palestinian man. The shooting of Iyad Halak, 32, in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday, drew broad condemnations. Israeli police said they spotted a man "with a suspicious object that looked like a pistol."

LOS ANGELES

Kylie upset as Forbes says she's no longer billionaire

Forbes magazine, which once declared Kylie Jenner a billionaire on its cover on Saturday said she no longer deserves the title. And Kylie is upset. "All I see are a number of inaccurate statements and unproven assumptions," she tweeted on Sunday about the Forbes story which says, "Kylie's business is significantly smaller, and less profitable now".

TEHRAN

Iran now admits 225 killed in November uprisings

Iran's interior minister on Sunday admitted that up to 225 people were killed in November protests sparked by a petrol price hike. The protests erupted on November 15 in Tehran and rapidly spread to at least 100 cities. Back then, Iranian authorities had rejected the death toll put out by the Western media and said "only a few people have been killed."

DUBAI

Emirates Airways joins others in cutting jobs

Emirates Airline said Sunday it will have to cut jobs after being forced to ground its fleet during the coronavirus crisis, but did not specify the extent of the layoffs. "We reviewed all possible scenarios in order to sustain our business, but we have come to the conclusion that we have to say goodbye to a few of the wonderful people that worked with us," the airline said.

PARAMARIBO

Suriname's opposition closer to power after polls

Four Surinamese parties have formed an alliance that would put them close to being able to choose the country's next president following elections that may have ended the rule of President Desi Bouterse. The United Reform Party appeared to have won 20 seats in the 51-member legislature, while Bouterse's Bouterse's National Democratic Party won 16.

EL-ARISH

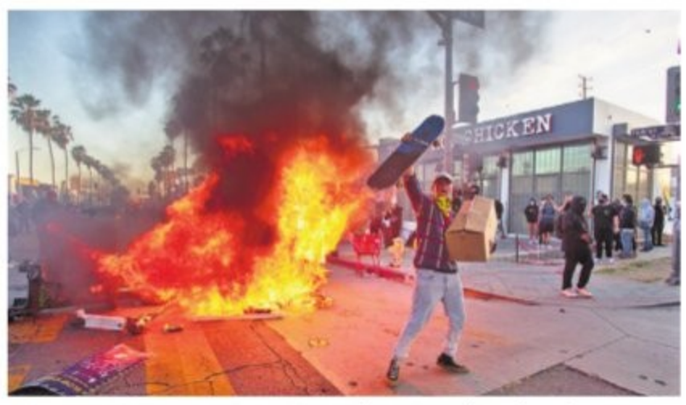
19 terrorists killed by Egypt troops in Sinai peninsula

The Egyptian military said it has killed at least 19 militants in raids and airstrikes against an Islamic insurgency in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, in clashes that also left at least five casualties among its troops. Colonel Tamer el-Rifai said late Saturday that the raids and airstrikes took place last week in the towns of Bir al-Abed, Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid.

OUAGADOUGOU

Gunmen storm market, kills 30 in Burkina Faso

Gunmen killed around 30 people at a livestock market in the eastern Burkina Faso town of Kompienbiga, local residents said on Sunday. The assailants "burst into the market riding motorbikes and started shooting, especially at people who were trying to flee", one resident said, estimating the death toll at around 30 from the attack on Saturday.



As many as 25 cities in across 16 US states have imposed a curfew after angry protesters clashed with police on Saturday night over George Floyd's death in custody | AFP

Dozen more US cities under curfew

More National Guards deployed after another night of furious protests over police killing

MINNEAPOLIS

AMERICANS awoke Sunday to charred and glass-strewn streets in dozens of cities after another night of unrest fueled by rage over the mistreatment of African Americans at the hands of police.

Overnight curfews were imposed in more than a dozen major cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Seattle.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington, DC."They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

People set fire to squad cars, threw bottles at officers and busted windows of storefronts. They carried away TVs and other items even as some protesters urged them to stop. In Indianapolis, multiple shootings were reported, including one that left a person dead amid the protests, adding to deaths in Detroit and Minneapolis in recent days.

In Minneapolis, the city where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 pm curfew took effect to break up the demonstrations.

President Donald Trump appeared to cheer on the tougher tactics Saturday night, commending the National Guard deployment in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!" and saying police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!" On Sunday, maintenance crews near the White House worked to replace windows that had been completely shattered with large pieces of wood. Buildings for blocks were marked with graffiti, including curses about Trump and anti-police sentiments. Shattered glass still covered the sidewalks. The damaged buildings included the Department of Veterans Affairs, directly across the street from the White House.

At least 13 police officers were injured in Philadelphia , and at least four police vehicles were set on fire. In New York City, dangerous confrontations flared repeatedly as officers made arrests and cleared streets. A video showed two NYPD cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators who were pushing a barricade against one of them and pelting it with objects. Several people were knocked to the ground. It was unclear if anyone was hurt.

"The mistakes that are happening are not mistakes. They're repeated violent terrorist offenses, and people need to stop killing black people," Brooklyn protester Meryl Makielski said.

Police have arrested nearly 1,700 people in 22 cities since Thursday, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Nearly a third of those arrests came in Los Angeles, where the governor declared a state of emergency and ordered the National Guard to back up the city's 10,000 police officers as dozens of fires burned across the city.

This week's unrest recalled the riots in Los Angeles nearly 30 years ago after the acquittal of the white police officers who beat Rodney King, a black motorist who had led them on a high-speed chase. *Agencies*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

Talks on to establish safe lanes for travel

Singapore is in talks with several countries, including Australia and South Korea, to establish "green lanes" for travel during the Covid-19 environment, officials said. China on Friday became the first country to establish a green lane with Singapore. Such arrangements allow for the restoration of connectivity and facilitation of short-term essential business and official travel between countries. According to officials, the city state is in talks with Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and Malaysia.

AFGHANISTAN

Roadside bomb kills reporter

A roadside bomb killed a television journalist in Kabul on Saturday, soon after a top Afghan official appointed to lead peace talks with the Taliban said his team was ready for the long-delayed dialogue.

PAKISTAN

Quetta tense after lynching of youth

Communal tension and protests have erupted in Pakistan's Quetta city after a mob, most of them believed to be from Shia Hazara community, allegedly lynched a Pushtun youth and severely injured his two friends. The capital city of the Baluchistan province remained tense and partially shut down on Sunday after the brutal lynching at a hair dresser's shop on Friday night. The incident was filmed and the footage was shared on social media.

Sharif's new picture in UK causes stir

ISLAMABAD

A fresh picture of Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif taking tea at a London cafe along with some members of his family went viral on social media, sparking a debate on his health with the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf members demanding his return to face corruption cases.

In the picture, the 70-year-old three-time premier is seen sitting at a roadside caf' with his granddaughters. He sported a blue shalwar kameez and a cap and apparently looked in better health.

Some ministers got skeptical about the serious nature of his health, saying Sharif is roaming on London streets and he even did not bother to wear mask in this Covid-19 testing time.

"This picture of Sharif having tea in caf' is exposing our law, justice and judicial system. This picture also tells how much people can trust on the accountability system in the country," Science Minister Fawad Chaudhry said.

Prime Minister's adviser Shahbaz Gill said that Sharif had gone abroad after lying in the court. "He thinks people are fools," Gill said.

Normalcy returned to Hong Kong on Sunday after days of violent protests over a new security law imposed by China | AFP

Hong Kong sees spike in migration inquiries as China tightens grip

HONG KONG

THE promulgation of new security law for Hong Kong by China has resulted in a sharp increase in inquiries for immigration from the former British colony especially the city's residents who emigrated en masse there when it returned to the Chinese control in 1997.

Immigration consultants have fielded hundreds of new calls since China's legislature —the National People's Congress (NPC)—unveiled the controversial plan on May 21, bypassing the local legislature, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday.

The legislation was subsequently approved by the NPC, much on the expected lines with an overwhelming majority on May 28, prompting US President Donald Trump to order the removal of exemptions that gave Hong Kong special status.

Trump said on Saturday that Hong Kong has no longer sufficiently autonomous from China to enjoy the special privileges with the US, in place since it left the British control in 1997.

The new law under which China can establish the presence of its security forces in Hong Kong for the first-time evoked strong protests from thousands of local people. The protests were expected to be intensified in the coming weeks. China says the new law is aimed at throttling secession, subversion, terrorism, foreign interference or activities that threaten national security. *PTI*

Thousands march to US Embassy in London

Demonstrators in London shout slogans on Sunday as they protest the death of a black man in police custody in the US city of Minneapolis | AFP

LONDON

NATIONS around the world have watched in horror at the five days of civil unrest in the United States following the death of a black man being detained by police. But they have not been surprised.

Thousands gathered in central London on Sunday to offer support for American demonstrators. Chanting "No justice! No peace!" and waving placards with the words 'How many more?' at Trafalgar Square, the protesters ignored UK government rules banning crowds because of the pandemic. Police didn't stop them.

Demonstrators then marched to the US Embassy, where a long line of officers surrounded the building.

Several hundred sat in the street and waved placards The US Embassy in Berlin was the scene of protests on Saturday evening under the motto: 'Justice for George Floyd.' Police said the gathering, organised through social media, was larger than expected but reported no arrests.

In Iran, which has violently put down nationwide demonstrations by killing hundreds, arresting thousands and disrupting internet access to the outside world, state television has repeatedly aired images of the US unrest.

One TV anchor discussed "a horrible scene from New York, where police attacked protesters". Another state TV message accused US police agencies in Washington of "setting fire to cars and attacking protesters"

'This incident is far from the first in a series of lawless conduct and unjustified violence from US law enforcement,'' the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Cafes and parks bustling again

The number of coronavirus cases worldwide topped six million on Sunday. As the virus progresses at different speeds around the globe, there has been pressure to lift crippling lockdowns, despite the lack of a vaccine and experts warning of a possible second wave of infections

AUSTRALIA EASES RULES

- Covid-19 restrictions are easing in most of Australia, but authorities say they'll be watching carefully to ensure the country's success in containing the pandemic remains on track
- The more flexible restrictions, which differ across the states, will mean more movement in public places, including pubs, cafes, and restaurants. But authorities have renewed their call for safe hygiene and social distancing measures to remain

SPAIN MAY EXTEND EMERGENCY

- Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Sunday he will seek parliament's approval to extend Spain's state of emergency one final time, which would keep the coronavirus lockdown in place until June 21. The current emergency is set to expire on June 7.

MOSQUES REOPEN AFTER TWO MONTHS

- Tens of thousands of mosques across Saudi Arabia reopened Sunday for the first time in more than two months, but worshipers have been ordered to follow strict guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus as Islam's holiest site in Mecca remained closed to the public
- The Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the third holiest site for Muslims after Mecca and Medina, also reopened for prayers for the first time since it was closed since mid-March

WORLDWIDE

CASES	Recovered	Deaths
61.9 lakh	27.6 lakh	3.71 lakh

UK PROPOSES TARGETED MEASURES

- UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Sunday defended the government's easing of the coronavirus lockdown and **indicated that a more localised and targeted approach would be adopted** if there is a second spike in the infection rate
- The UK is set to relax a number of social distancing restrictions from Monday, including opening of primary schools and outdoor markets as well as some domestic competitive sports behind closed doors

BRAZIL TOPS FRANCE

- Brazil on Saturday reached 28,834 coronavirus fatalities, authorities said, surpassing hard-hit France and becoming the country with the world's fourth-highest death toll.
- The US is the worst-hit country with 103,781 deaths. It is followed by the UK with 38,376 deaths and Italy with 33,340

Finally, Venezuela to hike fuel price

CARACAS

VENEZUELA will increase fuel prices in June, putting a limit on state subsidies that for decades had allowed citizens to fill their gas tanks virtually for free.

Although the country has huge oil reserves, production has collapsed and Venezuelans are facing dire shortages —exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19 on the economy.

Under the changes, which will come into force on June 1, drivers will be allowed up to 120 liters of gasoline a month and up to 60 liters for motorbikes at a subsidised price of 5,000 bolivars (US$0.025) per liter.

Beyond that, individuals will be required to pay international prices.

Nicholas Maduro

It comes days after Iranian fuel tankers, carrying much-needed gasoline, arrived in Venezuela.

"We have decided that 200 service stations will be allowed to sell this product at an international price," the country's socialist President Nicholas Maduro said on Saturday, announcing an end to the state monopoly on fuel.

Speaking from Caracas, Maduro said prices at these stations would be set at 50 US cents per liter.

The 200 service stations will be "run by private contractors" who will be allowed to import gasoline, said Maduro, but he did not say who had been awarded licenses.

Public transport fares would not be affected by the changes, he added.

The country is almost entirely dependent on oil exports for revenues but production has fallen to roughly a quarter of its 2008 level.

Maduro's government blames the loss in production on US sanctions, but many analysts say the regime has failed to invest in or maintain infrastructure. *AFP*

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

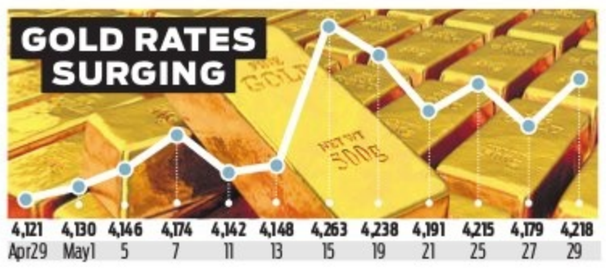
Current Price ₹1,465.2

Target Price ₹1,713

Reliance Industries: We are upbeat on RJio's multiple monetization avenues coming from increasing long-term ARPUs and other digital applications with the Facebook deal. Over the last month, leading technology investors have announced aggregate investments of Rs 78,562 crore into RJio Platforms. RIL is moving quickly to realise its plan of becoming net debt free by end-FY21.

— Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of **TNIE.**



EXPRESSREAD

STOCK EXCHANGE

MACRO DATA, GLOBAL CUES TO DRIVE MARKETS

Equity market sentiment this week will be guided by macroeconomic data, global cues and COVID-19 trends amid the phased reopening of the economy, analysts say. The home ministry on Saturday said 'Unlock-1' will be initiated in the country from June 8 under which the nationwide lockdown effected on March 25 will be relaxed to a great extent, including opening of shopping malls, restaurants, etc.

PLANS DEFERRED

LIC LISTING, IDBI BANK STAKE SALE DELAYED?

The listing of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and sale of government's stake in IDBI Bank may be delayed beyond March 2021, due to depressed valuation amid COVID-19 pandemic, sources say. The government aims to garner ₹90,000 crore from the listing of LIC and stake dilution in IDBI Bank out of total the disinvestment target of ₹2.10 lakh crore during the current fiscal.

REVISITING THE SAVINGS VS INVESTMENT DEBATE

RAJAS KELKAR

Savings and investments go hand-in-hand. Your investments can grow if you manage to increase your savings. The world is witnessing a pandemic like none other, comparable to the plague in the early 20th century or the two world wars. We are dealing with a medical problem that has turned into a massive social and economic catastrophe for nations.

In such a situation, gold prices have touched a record high. Every time that happens, people wonder if they missed out on the 'gold rally'. You put your money in gold when everything else is in a state of 'panic'.

"As the scale of the pandemic—and its potential economic impact—started to emerge, investors sought safe-haven assets," a quarterly report from the World Gold Council, an industry body said.

Diving deeper into the numbers, you figure that there was a sharp 36 per cent jump in demand for gold coins. Typically, wealthy retail investors buy them. In contrast, the wholesale market for gold slumped. Jewellers and industrial users buy gold in bars. The demand for bars fell 19 per cent. The industry body observes that the jewellery demand dropped 39 per cent over the same quarter last year. It is a record low.

That indicates panic investing by individuals. There is no structural demand surge in gold. A good indicator of the future of gold prices would be the hunger of countries like China and India for the yellow metal.

The demand for jewellery fell 65 per cent in China and 41 per cent in India during the quarter to March 2020. That indicates that panic buying by affluent investors mostly drive high prices of gold.

While gold acts as a hedge against risks in the markets, it is not an investment.

Your investment has to overcome the annual inflation rate each year to give you any meaningful returns. The inflation rate erodes the value of the money sitting idle in a bank.

Your money has to work for you. It has to lead to productive use of assets. That happens only when you invest in a business. Equity investing is the most efficient way of putting money to work. Buying quality equity assets and holding on to them as long as they make you wealthy. Warren Buffet and many other legendary investors have lived to tell the tale.

Over the history of global financial markets, there have been many up cycles and down cycles. Such movements are needed for old investors to cash out and new investors to enter. However, it does not pan out that way for many individual investors.

Most individuals buy when markets are at a record high and sell when everyone panics at record lows.

AMIT BANDRE

Investing through exchange-traded funds or mutual funds is by far an efficient way of investing in equity assets. Timing the market is for those who know about them. For people not into financial markets, it could be severe.

What about other asset classes?

Fixed-income assets are exposed to an interest rate risk. They are not risk-free, as commonly believed. They protect your capital and can keep your savings intact. However, they may not be able to fight inflation over the long-term as equity assets do. Effectively, fixed-income assets are a better way to save money than just keeping them in the bank account. However, they are not the most efficient way of investing as fixed income assets cannot give you a return substantially higher than the inflation rate.

Then, there are various government-sponsored public savings schemes. Just as the name suggests, they are all 'savings' schemes. Not any 'investment' schemes. Recently, the government decided to stop taking new subscriptions to the 7.75 per cent savings bonds, a scheme launched in 2018.

A lot of retirement and savings money went into these bonds. However, the interest rate offered is way over the 10-year government bond yield of around 6 per cent.

When the government provides a higher return than prevailing interest rates, it has to bear an additional burden. All of that is a clear indication of interest rates trending down on various public savings schemes.

Savings 'and' Investment

The debate cannot be whether you save or invest. Both have to go hand-in-hand. These are times when one has to save more and spend more. Allocating your savings towards equity assets and staying invested is essential. Buying when equity assets are priced lower, and others are fearful is most profitable. Legendary investors have done that. So can you.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

PANIC BUYING DRIVES GOLD PRICE RISE

36%

jump in demand for gold coins recorded since the outbreak of the pandemic. However, this price increase has been driven primarily by panic buying from affluent investors and not jewellers

19%

decline in demand for wholesale gold, which is traded in the form of bars, has been recorded in the same period. This indicates that the price increase is not being driven by a structural rise in demand from jewellers

CBDT notifies revamped IT-return forms for FY20

New forms seek extra information on instances of high spending from tax-payers, including expensive foreign trips and power bills

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Income Tax department on Sunday notified the IT Return forms 1 through 7 for the Financial Year 2019-20, with a provision for allowing deductions on investments made by them till June 30. The forms also require taxpayers to furnish details of specified categories where high-spending has occured.

For instance, the new notified forms make it mandatory for people to disclose on their ITRs if their deposits in a current account exceed ₹1 crore or their electricity bill for the fiscal year is ₹1 lakh or more, or even if they have made an expenditure of ₹2 lakh or more on foreign travel.

The benefit of simpler forms--ITR 1, ITR 2 and ITR 4--will also not be available to individuals who are either directors in a company or have invested in unlisted equity shares.

The new tax forms for Assessment Year 2020-21 and financial year 2019-20 have incorporated changes made in the Income Tax Rules 2020, first announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as a relief measure for taxpayers against Covid-19

Taxpayers including individuals, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), professionals and businesses, will now be able to avail benefits of savings or investments made from April to June 30.

Taxpayers will now also have a dedicated space in the newly notified forms--Sahaj (ITR-1), Form ITR-2, Form ITR-3, Form ITR-4 (Sugam), Form ITR-5, Form ITR-6, Form ITR-7 and Form ITR-V--to describe investments made by them during the quarter ended June 30. This means that even if a taxpayer failed to invest in PPF, small savings or other instruments eligible for claiming deductions under Chapter-VIA-B of the I-T Act--which includes Section 80C (LIC, PPF, NSC etc.), 80D (Mediclaim) and 80G (Donations)—for the financial year 2019-20, they can still do so by investing in such instruments till June 30, 2020.

The government had earlier extended the deadline for receiving Form-16 from June 20, 2020 to June 30, 2020 via an ordinance dated March 31, 2020. "The due date of the income tax return for FY 2019-20 will be extended from 31st July 2020 & 31st October 2020 to 30th November 2020 and Tax audit from 30th September 2020 to 31st October 2020" Finance Minister had said in her address.

Unlike the general practice of notifying forms in April, this year, the department had notified forms 1 and 2 in January. Due to pandemic, other forms which had to be revised have been notified only now.

MAJOR CHANGES INTRODUCED THIS YEAR

₹1 cr
Mandatory for people to file ITR in case deposits in a current account exceed ₹1 crore

₹1 lakh
Mandatory to file ITR if electricity bill in the fiscal is ₹1 lakh or more

₹2 lakh
Mandatory to file ITR if foreign trip expenditure is ₹2 lakh or more

New Schedule DI has been inserted in the forms to seek details of investments, deposits and payments from **April 2020** to **June 2020** which are eligible for claiming deductions or for rollover of investment in **FY2019-20**

Forms **ITR 1, ITR 2** and **ITR 4** will not be available to individuals who are either directors in a company or have invested in unlisted equity shares

In form **ITR-4**, the PAN number has been made optional if Aadhaar provided

In form **ITR-1**, government employees have been bifurcated into state, central government heads and a new head "NA" has been added to the categories

Gilt funds attractive, but highly volatile

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE common wisdom in debt markets is that there is no better time to buy into a gilt fund than when interest rates are decreasing. With the Reserve Bank of India continuing to make repo rate cuts over the past several quarters and risks for other categories of funds rising, many investors may be tempted to buy into a gilt fund--where returns rise as interest rates fall.

But, these are also highly volatile investments which may not be best suited to the average retail investor, experts note.

An essential requirement before investing in these instruments is to understand how returns are generated for gilt funds. Gilt funds exclusively invest in government bonds or G-secs. These bonds are effectively loans the purchaser gives to the issuer--and the latter promises to pay a certain fixed interest (this is the yield for the bond purchaser).

However, bond prices, which determine returns for gilt funds, move inversely to prevailing interest rates. When interest rates fall, bonds which offer fixed rates become more attractive and their prices rise. When interest rates rise, the inverse happens—prices fall because there are new bonds with higher yields.

"These are great for people who are looking to time the markets, get in when rates are low and out when they are high," says Krishna Kumar, a financial planner from Chennai. "But, short term volatility is very high because they have very high interest rate risk". Some swing as high as 7-8 per cent one week, but take a loss of 8-9 per cent in another. "Since interest rates are falling, one-year gilt fund returns are in double digits. But, high volatility in the short and even medium term is a real possibility," added a debt MF executive, "it is best for retail investors to stay invested for 5-7 years".

MFs invest just ₹1,230 cr in equities during lockdown

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

MUTUAL funds have invested just ₹1,230 crore in the stock markets since the beginning of the nation-wide lockdown, latest data from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) shows. According to analysts, this low inflow of capital from MFs during the lockdown has been primarily due to the risk of possible redemptions by corporate houses, leading to the need to maintain high liquidity.

According to Sebi data, MFs have invested a net ₹1,230 crore in stocks since the nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24. In contrast, MFs had invested ₹6,363 crore in stocks in the last week of March. For the whole month of April, however, MFs pulled out ₹7,965 crore before reversing the selling trend in May, investing a net ₹2,832 crore. For the whole of March, MFs had made a whopping ₹30,000 crore in investments due to attractive valuations since many company scrips hit their 52-weeks lows.

But, foreign investors pulled out a massive ₹61,973 crore from equities in March and ₹6,883 crore in April before turning net buyers in May and investing over ₹14,500 crore.

EQUITY TALK

Advantages that come from having the right coach

While there is no dearth of cricket fans in India who rate Sourav Ganguly as Indian cricket's best modern day red ball captain and MS Dhoni as the best white ball captain, very few remember the key role played by the team's Coach in their successes.

In the complex maze that financial markets worldwide, and the Indian markets in particular are, the need for a coach therein too cannot be understated. Add to that, the Indian investor's preference to have investment options explained along with their tax implications and also be assisted to complete the transaction.

What emerges is a perfect prescription for Independent Financial Advisors (IFAs), now classified as Distributors by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

This is because SEBI has created one more category named Advisors, though the line of distinction still remains somewhat blurred despite scores of iterations. An investment made through a distributor falls under the regular plan category while an investment made through an advisor falls under the direct plan category, as are investments made by an investor herself.

The most recent data put out by the industry body, AMFI indicates that the proportion of direct versus regular in the industry stood at 45:55 viz. 45 per cent of the industry's assets were routed via direct plans while 55 per cent were through regular plans.

However, as is the case with most data, what you see is not what you get.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-INDIA. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Further scrutiny reveals that despite aggressive advocacy of direct plans, when it comes to individual investors, 86 per cent of the Assets under Management (AUM) has come through regular plans and more strikingly, 78 per cent of the AUM of High Networth Individuals (HNIs) has come to the mutual fund industry through regular plans.

Direct plans, on the other hand seem the preferred mode of investment for institutional investors with 72 per cent coming via that route and also in case of ETFs and Fund of Fund investments where 80 per cent of the funds were routed via the direct route.

The data clearly suggests that notwithstanding all the doomsday predictions, distributors and regular plans still remain the biggest mobilizers of mutual fund investments in India.

A nightmarish month in the markets like March 2020, which witnessed a vertical fall in equities, and compounding of this misery by unpleasant and confidence shaking developments in the debt mutual fund segment, is a good example of where distributors score.

The ability of the distributor (like a coach in an equivalent cricketing scenario) to calm frayed nerves and remind investors of their long term investment objectives in such scenarios is vital. This is one of the primary reasons why I believe that HNI investors who prefer customised service are not likely to be drawn to mass based online platforms. The differentiator is the intangible, but much valued factors of trust and reliability.

As for the math behind the myth that regular investments cost more than direct investments (except if self-done), reserve that debate for a later date.

Ailing Dingko tests positive, admitted to hospital in Imphal

Already battling liver cancer, boxer Dingko Singh has tested positive for coronavirus, adding to his health complications which earlier came in the way of an urgently-arranged radiation therapy. The 41-year-old Arjuna and Padma Shri awardee has been admitted to a hospital in Imphal, just over a week after returning from Delhi.

OUT OF THE WOODS

FACTFILE

DAFNE SCHIPPERS

Date of birth: June 15, 1992

Country: Netherlands

Main events: 100m, 200m

WORLDS

100m: Bronze (2017), Silver (2015)
200m: Gold (2015 and 2017)
Heptathlon: Bronze (2013)

OLYMPICS

200m: Silver (2016)

Back to regular regimen after training in forests during lockdown in Netherlands, Rio Olympics silver-medallist sprinter Schippers feels unavailability of vaccine won't impede athletes from participating in Diamond League if due diligence is followed with logistics

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

DAFNE Schippers was preparing for a loaded 2020. After medalling at every World Championships since 2013, the sprinter did not manage to enter the 100m final in Doha last year. With several generational women's sprinters in the fray, the 27-year-old Dutch knew hard work was going to be the only way towards a podium place in Tokyo Olympics (she won 200m silver in Rio).

But all that work was shelved as the pandemic raged through Europe in March and April. With her training halted for close to two months, Schippers had to run in a forest to just keep fit. In a chat with this daily, she spoke about that experience, what running at stadia would be like without fans, and her thoughts on competing without a vaccine.

Excerpts:

EXPRESS SPECIAL

■ How tough has this period been for you?
It was far from ideal. I was lucky to be sponsored by a fitness-equipment company. They helped me out with relevant products very quickly. In that way, I was able to at least do my weight-training sessions as usual. Running on the other hand was a little more challenging. We had to run in forests because there were no accommodation or track open for anyone in Netherlands. Of course, you can do some forms of running in the woods. But with an uneven, wobbly surface, you cannot do sprint training. After a while, it became risky because you can pick up injuries. So I was really happy that our training centre (in Papendal) reopened. We can continue from where we left.

■ Now that you have resumed training outdoors, how did the first few days feel like?
It was a bit weird. But you get used to the track quickly. In the end, it was not that long that we weren't allowed to train on the track; two months or so.

■ How comfortable are you with racing in Diamond League this year? Without a vaccine...
I am always very careful. I will be extra careful if there are more people around. I think when Diamond League is ready to get going, everything will be done and organised with utmost care. Nobody wants to take the risk of new outbreaks. Careers can be ruined by spread of the virus... I expect extra attention and care. If that is the case and preparations are done carefully, I will be okay to race again.

■ How did Olympics' postponement affect your preparations?
Normally, I would have to be ready for outdoor races now. We were planning on starting the season by end of May. With Diamond League meets and several others events, my schedule would have been packed by now, with a lot of travelling and races and trying to grow into the season. I hope the renewed season will take place by August, but nobody knows for sure. So this all means that the focus has shifted. There still will be an Olympics. So there is still that moment to focus on. The main difference is that we have some more time to work on the details.

■ Athletes have complained reduced motivation because of a lack of short-term goals. Have you also suffered from something similar?
I can imagine athletes saying things like that. Of course, there is still a goal in 2021 with Olympics. But I believe that you can give that little extra if you know that you have to be at your best in the short term. Now, there is less urgency. Also, racing without public will be a thing. I need to hear the crowd, and feel the atmosphere and extra pressure to perform at my best. But I wonder if that's going to happen in the short term.

Three options and a tricky call if BCCI eyes ICC top post

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY
@Chennai

THERE is some noise about the BCCI fielding a candidate at the election for the ICC chairman post. It would have taken place in July under normal circumstances. There are talks that it might be deferred due to the pandemic. Even if there is a delay, it is expected to happen this year.

The election becomes necessary following incumbent chairman Shashank Manohar's decision to not seek an extension. Colin Graves of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is tipped to be his successor. This will change only if the BCCI wants someone of its own at the helm of the world body and nominates a candidate to fight for the post.

The BCCI still seems to be thinking whether to support a candidate or field one. Almost the entire board believes Manohar protected the interests of other boards more than India's. By its estimates, BCCI should earn about 15 per cent more than what it is getting as share of ICC's profits. Setting that right is a reason why BCCI would want its man heading ICC.

But who will it be, if the BCCI does choose to throw its hat into the ring? A candidate has to be a former or present member of the ICC Board, which consists of the heads of 12 Test-playing boards and three from associate members. He or she also must have attended at least one ICC Board meeting. Sourav Ganguly is eligible and so is N Srinivasan. The other person from India who fulfils the criteria is Anurag Thakur.

(From left) Sourav Ganguly, N Srinivasan & Anurag Thakur are BCCI's three alternatives

Ganguly's name has emerged prominently following Graeme Smith's statement that the current BCCI president is the right man to take up the post after Manohar. But it remains to be seen if he wants this post.

Just over six months into the BCCI president's chair, Ganguly has to vacate it if he becomes ICC chairman. It might make sense for him to make the move if the Supreme Court rejects the BCCI's plea to modify the cooling-off rule. Ganguly has to take a break from cricket administration in India in that case. But it is not clear when the matter will come up for hearing, which makes it a tricky call, considering that the ICC Board is expected to decide on June 10 on the process of filing nominations for the chairman's post.

Also pending in the court is the BCCI's application seeking clarifications on the eligibility of representatives it wants to send to the ICC. Srinivasan's candidature depends on this verdict, since the former BCCI president is not eligible to hold a position in India anymore. It has to be seen if the 75-year-old wants to take up the position he held from 2014 to 2015.

Thakur's case is different. This former BCCI president is a good choice according to some, but his political commitments may come in the way if he wants to take up the ICC post. Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Thakur has a packed schedule. News is that he has not been approached by the BCCI in this regard, nor has he expressed interest. So for him to make up his mind and for the board to put forward his name, things have to start happening soon.

With not much time remaining and its petitions yet to be listed for hearing, it will be challenging for BCCI to zero in on a name. Whether it lets Graves take up the post and wait for the next chance after three years, or throw in the gauntlet for the term beginning this year, is the question. The answer is expected in the next few days.

EXPRESS READ

Atalanta coach says he was +ve during CL

MILAN: Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini revealed that he thought he would die as he suffered coronavirus symptoms when the Italian team played their Champions League match against Valencia in March. Gasperini told *Gazzetta Dello Sport* that he was sick when Atalanta beat Valencia 4-3 at the Mestalla on March 10 in the Round of 16.

Vinesh to be named by WFI for Khel Ratna

NEW DELHI: Vinesh Phogat is set to be nominated for Khel Ratna for the second year in a row while Sakshi Malik wants to be in contention for the Arjuna Award, although she has won it. "We will send the application on Monday," said WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्य कारखाना प्रबन्धक, कार्यशाला, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रो में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है –
(1) ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2020-21 : 01-WS कार्य का नाम: Zone Contract, Zone- 1 (Workshop) for day to day repairs and maintenance work in Workshop. Jodhpur in the section of SSE/W/WS/JU under XEN/WS/JU for year 2020-21 & 2021-22. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 3,66,90,703.16/- बयाने की राशि : ₹ 3,33,500/- **(2) ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2020-21 : 02-WS** कार्य का नाम: Zone Contract, Zone- 2 (General Store Depot) for day to day repairs and maintenance work in General Store Depot, Jodhpur in the section of SSE/W/WS/JU under XEN/WS/JU for year 2020-21 & 2021-22. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 79,06,316.90/- बयाने की राशि : ₹ 1,58,100/- **(3) ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2020-21 : 03-WS** कार्य का नाम: Repairing of Drainage system back side of Wheel Shop in Carraige Workshop Jodhpur. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 14,71,131.99/- बयाने की राशि : ₹ 29,400/- निविदा सूचना संख्या 2020-21/01-03/WS/JU तक निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 03.07.2020 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है – www.ireps.gov.in
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Advt. No. 47/2020
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman & Managing Director in Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15.00 hours on **04th August, 2020**.
For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 908/BGK/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-1/Tr(W&M)/F-53/512-19 & 503-11 Date: 30-05-2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode only)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites tenders for the following works on **Total Turkey Basis**.
1) Bid Enquiry No.KPTCL/BGK/SEE/19-20/TL/LYNX/CONDUCTOR/03/CALL-3 for Replacement of deteriorated and damaged Lynx 'Y' Phase conductor and hardwares from location No.83 to 92 of 110 kV S/C line from 220 kV sub-station Basavana Bagewadi to 220kV sub-station Vijayapur Circuit-2 under TLM Section Basavana Bagewadi in TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Vijayapura.
2) Bid Enquiry No.KPTCL/BGK/SEE/19-20/Intermediate Tower/04/Call-2 for Providing two numbers of DC DB+3 and DB+6 type intermediate towers in existing 110kV Bagalkot to Basavana Bagewadi Double Circuit line between location No.07 to 11 to maintain ground clearance to safety of public, including supply, erection and civil works such as concreting of foundations for erection of towers in TLM Section Bagalkot in TL&SSM Division, KPTCL, Bagalkot.
The tenders will be received through e-procurement mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **'e-procurement-KPTCL'** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.00 Hrs on 01-06-2020.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, No.45,
Zonal Office Complex, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587103.

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ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD
STEWART BRAND

ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ., ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ರಾಬಕೊಹಾಒ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ರದ್ದತಿ/326/2020-21 ದಿ: 30.05.2020
ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ರದ್ದತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ
ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ., ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಒಟ್ಟು 29 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾದ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ರಾಬಕೊಹಾಒ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/1122/2019-20 **ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.09.2019** ಅನ್ನು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ರದ್ದು ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕದ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ವಾಪಸ್ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ. ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No.U27310WB1920GOI003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71
Notice Inviting eTender (eNIT) No. : B&R / HO / ERE / 71109 / PAINTING / KANPUR / NIT / 03, Dated 01.06.2020
ONLINE SINGLE PERCENTAGE RATE OFFER(S) IN TWO PART BID SYSTEM ARE INVITED FROM REPUTED, RESOURCEFUL AND EXPERIENCED AGENCIES FOR "SURFACE PREPARATION BY SHOT BLASTING, SUPPLY AND APPLICATION OF PAINTS FOR ABOVE GROUND FLOATING ROOF, CONE ROOF AND UNDER GROUND TANKS FOR HYDRO-CARBON PRODUCT AND WATER STORAGE AT BPCL KANPUR TERMINAL, UTTAR PRADESH.
INTERESTED BIDDER(S) WILL HAVE TO BE ENROLLED & REGISTERED WITH THE GOVERNMENT E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, THROUGH LOGGING ON TO http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER IS 15.06.2020 UP TO 16:00 HOURS.
ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM IF ANY, SHALL BE HOSTED IN CPP PORTAL : http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app AND COMPANY'S WEBSITE http://www.bridgeroof.co.in.

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE
NELSON MANDELA

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), towards **Selection of System Integrator to develop and implement an integrated end-to-end IT solution for Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).**
The tender can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in/, http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in/, https://tnega.tn.gov.in/ from 01.06.2020, 11:30 hrs.**
Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on **09.06.2020 at 11:30 hrs in TNeGA**, 807, 2nd Floor, PT Lee Chengalvarayan Naicker Building, Anna Salai (Mount Road), Chennai - 600 002.
EMD for an amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through **https://tntenders.gov.in/(e-Tender) is 06.07.2020 till 17:00 hrs.** Technical Bid shall be opened online on **07.07.2020 at 17:00 hrs.** Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled at TNeGA.
Chief Executive Officer
DIPR/523/Display/2020 **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer(Design),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.
No. BWSSB/CEDTE/TA2/44-2020/204/2020-21 Date: 28.05.2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-procurement portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from Reputed Manufacturers/Authorised Dealers for the work of **Supply of 1578MTs of Liquid Chlorine required for water purifier of One Ton capacity and 18MT of liquid chlorine in 100kgs Capacity cylinders conforming to IS:646/1986 with its latest amendments.**
Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,35,03,804/-**. EMD: **Rs. 2,02,557/-**.
The last date & time for receipt of tenders: **30.06.2020 before 16:00 Hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on: **02.07.2020 at 12:00 Noon.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Design).

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
(ಆಡಳಿತ ಶಾಖೆ)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **08262-220405**, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: **08262-220094** E-mail: zpadmckm@gmail.com
No: ZP-CKM-11020/33/23/2019-ADMIN (E-3566) ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28-05-2020**
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 07 ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳ (ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು, ಕಡೂರು, ಕೊಪ್ಪ, ಶೃಂಗೇರಿ, ನ.ರಾ.ಪುರ, ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ತರೀಕೆರೆ) 227 ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗಣಕೀಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ e-Procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, e-Procurement ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-06-2020ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 22-06-2020ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

Government of Odisha
Housing & Urban Development Department
Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM)
(4th Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007)
E-mail-ouhmodisha@gmail.com, phone-0674-2572232
Website: www.urbanodisha.gov.in
ADVERTISEMENT
File No. HUD-HU-ADM-0006-2017
No: Date
C-28: Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Chairperson in the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act,2016 and Rule 18 &19 of the Odisha Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Rules, 2017.
The Chairperson of the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA), shall hold office for a term not exceeding 5 (five) years from the date on which they enter upon their office, or until they attain the age of 65 (Sixty Five) years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment. The Chairperson of the ORERA shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, and the Odisha Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017, made thereunder. The Head Office of the Authority will be at Bhubaneswar.
For complete information on qualification, eligibility criteria , application form and other details, the interested persons may visit and download the same from the Department's website **www.urbanodisha.gov.in** under 'What's New' link. The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is 17.06.2020.
- Sd -
(G. Mathivathanan, IAS)
Principal Secretary
OIPR-13001/11/0001/2021

Dragon puts 2 astronauts in space

SpaceX capsule carrying two NASA astronauts docks with ISS; Russia says it's not going to sit idle

SPACEFLIGHT

CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX delivered two astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Sunday, following up a historic liftoff with an equally smooth docking in yet another first for Elon Musk's company.

With test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken poised to take over manual control if necessary, the SpaceX Dragon capsule pulled up to the station and docked automatically, no assistance needed.

The linkup occurred 422 km above the China-Mongolia border.

It was the first time a privately built and owned spacecraft carried astronauts to the orbiting lab in its nearly 20 years. NASA

considers this the opening volley in a business revolution encircling Earth and eventually stretching to the moon and Mars.

"Bravo on a magnificent moment in spaceflight history," NASA's Mission Control radioed to everyone from Houston. NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy greeted the incoming crew by ringing the ship's bell aboard the space station.

The docking occurred a little early, barely 19 hours after a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasted off Saturday afternoon from Kennedy Space Center, the nation's first astronaut launch to orbit from home soil in nearly a decade.

A few hours before docking, the Dragon riders reported that the capsule was performing beautifully. Just in case, they slipped back into their pressurized launch suits and helmets for the rendezvous.

Gleaming white in the sunlight, the Dragon was easily visible from a few miles out, its nose cone open and exposing its docking hook as well as a blinking light. The capsule loomed ever larger on live NASA TV as it closed the gap.

Hurley and Behnken took over the controls — using high-tech touchscreens — and did a little piloting less than a couple hundred yards out as part of the test flight, before putting it back into automatic for the final approach. Hurley said the capsule handled "really well, very crisp."

Russia miffed

Russia on Sunday put a brave face on the loss of its space travel monopoly, saying it planned to test two new rockets this year and resume its lunar programme in 2021. "We are not planning to sit idle," said Roscosmos spokesman Vladimir Ustimenko.

He also tweeted: "We don't really understand the hysteria sparked by the successful launch of a Crew Dragon spacecraft." He added, "What should have happened a long time ago happened."

Climate crisis making trees shorter, younger: Study

GLOBAL IMPACT

LONDON: Ongoing environmental changes are transforming forests worldwide, resulting in shorter and younger trees with broad impacts on ecosystems, say researchers.

A global study in *Science* showed how rising temperatures and carbon dioxide have been altering the world's forests.

These alterations are caused by increased stress and carbon dioxide fertilisation and through increasing the frequency and severity of disturbances such as wildfire, drought, wind damage and other natural enemies, the researchers said.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shivagami.P @ Sivagami.P, aged 34 years and W/o. H.Prabhakaran, R/at No.281, 9th Main, Manjunathanagar, Bangalore North, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010, Karnataka. I have changed my daughters name from **'MITRASONA.P'** to **'MITHRASSENA.P'** Vide affidavit dated 29-05-2020, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Aruna.V, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client SRI. VELARAM DEVASI and SMT. HAVALI DEVI, Both R/at No. 15/68, 8th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder owned by SMT. T. DHANALAKSHMI, SRI. BHARGAV RAMESH, SMT. MANISHA, SRI. YASHAS RAMESH, All are Residing at No. 316/C, Srikrupa, 3rd Floor, Near KVB-15 & 16th Cross Middle, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. Notice is hereby given to all concerned calling for objections if any against such purchase of the schedule property, if anybody have any right, title, interest or claims whatsoever over the same or any part thereof, they are hereby requested to lodge their written objections / claims together with supporting documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall complete sale transactions and no subsequent claims by anybody shall be entertained and all such objections and claims will be deemed to be void and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing site No.871, present No.32, PID No.22-110-32, situated at 15th Main Road, 3rd Block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-560010, measuring East to West 45ft and North to South 30ft along with a residential building with Ground Door (7 Squares, used with Brick wall, Cement Flooring, Jungle wood doors and windows) and First Floor (4 Squares used with Brick wall, Cement Flooring, Jungle wood doors and windows), standing thereon, and bounded on the;

East by : Road, West by : Property No. 876, North by : Property bearing No. 872, South by : Property bearing No. 870.

N.M. BHAT ASSOCIATES, Advocates
No. 64, 71st Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore - 560010. Phone No. 9448129256

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions of our client M/s. Ramachandra Rexins Pvt. Ltd. Represented by its Director Sri. N.A. Venkatesh Gupta, we inform the public as follows :

Our client M/s. Ramachandra Rexins Pvt. Ltd. is the absolute owner of the property Plot No. 253, situated at Bommasandra Industrial Area, Bengaluru, measuring 18,205 Sq.Mtrs. formed in Sy.Nos. 209, 210, 211 and 212 including existing industrial building, bounded on:

East by: Service Road, West by: Bommasandra Village Road, North by: Service Road, South by: National Highway (Hosur Road).

Originally KIADB Authorities have acquired several lands at Bommsandra and surrounding Villages including the land bearing Sy.No. 209, 210, 211 and 212 and has formed industrial layout during the year 1980-81. After formation of the Industrial Layout on the application filed by our client the KIADB has allotted the Industrial Plot No. 253 totally measuring 18,205 Sq.Mtrs., which area covers the Sy.No. 209 to 212 of Bommasandra Village, after allotment of the same our client has taken possession of the same by paying consideration amount. Our client has established an industry known as "M/S. RAMACHANDRA REXINS PVT. LTD." in the year 1982-83 and running the industry since then till today. Our client has obtained absolute sale deed from the KIADB Authorities through Court, all the revenue records from the Village Panchayath Office of Bommasandra are also standing in the name of our client, now the property is included within the limits of TMC Bommasandra.

Among 4 Sy.Nos. of property belongs to our client KIADB Plot No. 253. The Sy.No. 211 measuring 34 guntas Bommasandra Village is also there. When things stood thus one Sri. D. Muniyappa and his son Anand residents of Bommasandra Village, who have no manner of right, title, interest in respect of the industrial plot of our client. The said D. Muniyappa has colluded with the revenue authorities through the property has lost its character of agriculture nature and the KIADB acquired in the year 1981 itself under Gazattee Notification No. C1159SPO.80 dt. 28.02.1981 and formed layout. The said D. Muniyappa by creating certain fake documents in respect of the industrial land as if the same is an agricultural land has made illegal attempts to disturb our client, hence, our client filed a suit in O.S. No. 518/2015 before the Civil Judge, Anekal. The Hon'ble Court is pleased to grant an order of injunction in favour of our client against Muniyappa, however, the Senior Civil Judge, Anekal, has set aside the said order, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in W.P. No. 21758/2019 has granted injunction order restraining Muniyappa from interfering with possession of our client. In spite of orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Muniyappa is making all sorts of illegal attempts and also giving pinpricks to our client. Now our client has reliably learnt that the said D. Muniyappa without having any manner of right on the basis of concocted and created documents which are already cancelled by Deputy Commissioner is making an attempt to alienate a portion of the property belongs to our client i.e. Sy.No. 211 which is part and parcel of Industrial Plot No. 253.

We therefore hereby calling upon the general public not to make any transaction with the said Muniyappa, who is no way connected to the above said property belonged to our client (34 Guntas including 2 gunta as Karab). If inspite of this notice to the general public, if any person dealt with Muniyappa in respect of Sy.No. 211 measuring 34 guntas of Bommasandra Village the same is nothing but illegal transaction with a person who is no way connected to the property and such transaction if any made the same will not binding on our client and the same shall be at the personal risk of the general public and that such transaction will not binding on our client, who is the true owner and in enjoyment of the same.

For details Contact No.
9341247598, 9741722958
V. VISHWANATH, Advocate
113, 2nd Floor, Hospital Road, (Behind Mysore Bank Head Office, K.G. Road), Bengaluru - 560 053.

HDFC

Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. CIN L70100MH1977PLC019916
Regional Office : HDFC House, No.51, Kasturaba Road, Bangalore - 560001. **Ph :** 080 41183000
Fax: 080 22275754, E-mail : customercare.bang@hdfc.com, Website: www.hdfc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused/are getting the said Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notice are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their name(s), together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Attention of the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	(Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	**Borrower: 1) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** No.853, 37th F Cross, 18th Main Road, Jayanagar South, Near 4th T Block, Bengaluru 560041, **2)Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Micro Land Limited, **Designation:** VP Corpta **Department:** CPOS Office, **Employee No:** 16723, 01B Micro Land Ltd Ecospace, Belandur Outer Ring Road, Belandur Bengaluru 560103, **3) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Flat-G-02, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, S No 88, Kh No 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560064, **4) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Flat-G-03, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, Sy. No. 88, Kh. No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064, **Co-Borrowers: 1) Mr. Sridhar T R,** No.853, 37th F Cross, 18th Main Road, Jayanagar South, Near 4th T Block, Bengaluru 560041, **2) Mr. Sridhar T R,** Flat-G-02, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, S No 88, Kh No 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560064, **3) Mr. Sridhar T R,** Flat-G-03, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, Sy. No. 88, Kh. No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560064.	**Loan A/c No: 628777802 Rs.46,72,560/- (as on 30.04.2020)**	**20.05.2020**	All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing No. G-02 in the ground floor of the building known as OMEGA ASTER APARTMENT, having super built up area of 1040 sq.ft. along with 374 sq.ft. of UDS (undivided, right, title and share) in the land on which the building is constructed containing two bed rooms situated at Survey Number 88, Khata No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.
2	**Borrower: 1) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** No.853, 37th F Cross, 18th Main Road, Jayanagar South, Near 4th T Block, Bengaluru 560041, **2)Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Micro Land Limited, **Designation:** VP Corpta **Department:** CPOS Office, **Employee No:** 16723, 01B Micro Land Ltd Ecospace, Belandur Outer Ring Road, Belandur Bengaluru 560103, **3) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Flat-G-02, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, S No 88, Kh No 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560064, **4) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar,** Flat-G-03, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, Sy. No. 88, Kh. No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064, **Co-Borrowers: 1) Mr. Sridhar T R,** No.853, 37th F Cross, 18th Main Road, Jayanagar South, Near 4th T Block, Bengaluru-560041, **2) Mr. Sridhar T R,** Flat-G-02, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, S No 88, Kh No 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru-560064, **3) Mr. Sridhar T R,** Flat-G-03, Ground Floor, Omega Aster Apartment, Sy. No. 88, Kh. No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru 560064.	**Loan A/c No: 628777699 Rs.45,90,302/- (as on 30.04.2020)**	**20.05.2020**	All that piece and parcel of residential apartment bearing Residential Apartment bearing No. G-03 in the ground floor of the building known as OMEGA ASTER APARTMENT, having super built up area of 1000 sq.ft. Along with 370 sq.ft. of UDS(undivided, right, title and share) in the land on which the building is constructed containing two bed rooms situated at Survey Number 88, Khata No. 59/88/1, Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru.
3	**Borrower: 01) 1) Dr. Jyothi Mallikarjuna,** No 13, Staff Quarters, SSIMS Jnanashankara, NH4 Bypass, Davanagere-577005, **2) Dr. Jyothi Mallikarjuna,** S/o Jyothi Eshawarappa, Chigateru, Davanagere, Harappanalli, Davanagere 583127, **3) Dr. Jyothi Mallikarjuna,** Narayana Hrudayalaya Limited, **Designation:** Consultant Doctor, **Department:** 6 years Anesthesia, **Employee No.:**103853, SSIMS NH-4 Bypass, Davanagere-577005, **4) Dr. Jyothi Mallikarjuna,** Flat-102, First Floor, Raindrops Miyans Green Residency, Plot 112 & 113, Sitauted At Celebrity Lake View Layout, Rajapura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562106.	**Loan A/c No: 618346289 Rs.20,34,291/- (as on 30.04.2020)**	**20.05.2020**	All that part and parcel of Flat bearing No.102 on the First Floor, in 'MYANS GREEN RESIDENCY", having super built up area of 1018 Sq. Ft. with UDS (Undivided share, right and interest of land) of 202 Sq.Ft. in the land on which the building apartment is constructed and is situated on converted vacant site bearing No.112 & 113, present Village Panchayat property No. 15020010320020117 1/240/112 and 15020010320020117 2/240/113, dated 30.03.2015, formed in B.M.R.D.A Approved layout, with one covered car parking situated at 'CELEBRITY LAKE VIEW" carved out in Survey Nos.56,72,73/2,74/1, & 74/2 of Rajapura Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District.
4	**Borrower: 1) Mrs. Revathy,** Wife of Mr. Chandrasekar [since deceased], Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Chandrasekar, GM, Infinite E City Town, Block F A 163, Thirupalya Road, Electronics City, Bangalore 560100, **2) Mrs. Revathy,** Wife of Mr. Chandrasekar, [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Chandrasekar, 5/69H, Billicombai Village, Billicombai Post, Kagguchi, Kattabettu, The Nilgiris, Tamilnadu 643214, **3) Mrs. Revathy,** Wife of Mr. Chandrasekar [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr. Chandrasekar, Unit-102, 1st Floor, A R Paradise, Plot 31, S No 93/1, 93/2, Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore 560068, **Co- Borrower: 1) Mrs. Revathy,** GM Infinite E City Town, Block F A 163, Thirupalya Road, Electronics City, Bangalore 560100 **2) Mrs. Revathy,** 5/69H, Billicombai Village, Billicombai Post, Kagguchi, Kattabettu, The Nilgiris,Tamilnadu 643214, **3) Mrs. Revathy,** Unit-102, 1st Floor, A R Paradise, Plot 31, S No 93/1, 93/2, Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore 560068. **02) And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr.Chandrasekar(Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr.Chandrasekar GM Infinite E City Town, Block F A 163, Thirupalya Road, Electronics City, Bangalore 560100, **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr.Chandrasekar(Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr.Chandrasekar, 5/69H, Billicombai Village, Billicombai Post, Kagguchi, Kattabettu, TheNilgiris, Tamilnadu 643214 **And other known and unknown Legal Heir(s) of Mr.Chandrasekar (Borrower)** [since deceased] Legal Heir(s), Legal Representative(s), Successors and Assigns of Mr.Chandrasekar, Unit-102, 1st Floor, A R Paradise, Plot 31, S No 93/1, 93/2, Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560068	**Loan A/c No: 638311452 Rs.13,96,149/- (as on 29.02.2020) Loan A/c No: 638311476 Rs.23,40,315/- (as on 29.02.2020) Loan A/c No: 640633688 Rs. 44,193/- (as on 29.02.2020) Loan A/c No: 640845566 Rs. 78,842/- (as on 29.02.2020)**	**13.03.2020**	All that piece and parcel of residential Two bedroom apartment bearing Flat No.102, in the First Floor, of the building known as "A.R. PARADISE", admeasuring 1300 Sq. feet, inclusive of a proportionate share of 622 sq. feet of land, along with one open car parking in ground floor of the Property bearing Site No.31, comprised in Sy.Nos. 93/1 & 93/2 duly converted from Agricultural purpose to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes bearing conversion order No.BDS ALN:SR(S) 255,257,258,259,260,261,262 & 263/2000-2001 all dated 27.04.2001, situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 01.06.2020
Place: Bangalore

For Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd
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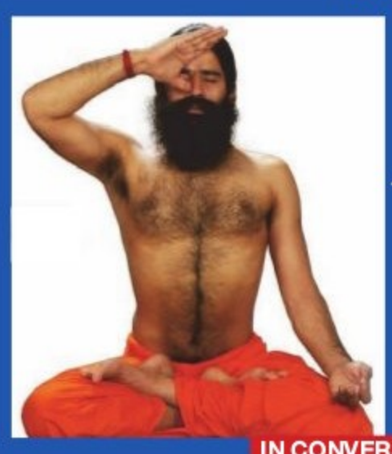

Is Atmanirbhar Bharat Possible?

IN CONVERSATION WITH
Prabhu Chawla
Editorial Director,
The New Indian Express

Monday, JUNE 1, 4 PM

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Where the White Revolution Never Stops

R. S Sodhi
MD, Amul India

IN CONVERSATION WITH
Prabhu Chawla
Editorial Director,
The New Indian Express

Shankkar Aiyar
Author and Political Economy Analyst

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 6:30 PM

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01.06.2020 MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Happy birthday

Model, actress, singer and arguably one of the most famous women of the 20th century, Marilyn Monroe was born on this day in 1926

INFLUENTIAL FIGURE

Monroe has become an iconic representative of fame and female beauty. She is widely regarded as one of most influential figures in American culture

CAREER

Photographer David Conover was struck by the beauty and photogenic nature of Monroe, and he used her in many of his photographs. This launched her career as a model, and she was soon featured in many magazine covers

POORLY PAID

Despite her A-list status, Monroe was paid poorly compared to other actresses of her time. In *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, her co-star Jane Russell was paid 10 times more than she was

Rishab Shetty to play underworld don Amar Alva

PG 4

LOCKDOWN PICKUPS

As we head into Unlock 1.0, city celebs talk about their biggest learnings during this two-month lockdown

• Vidya Iyengar

Behram Siganporia, musician and frontman, Best Kept Secret

I have been working hard on my Hindi and it's great to see the love, support and encouragement I have received towards this. I have something interesting coming up towards the end of the year, and this lockdown has given me time to learn the language well. I will never take my domestic help for granted. My cook and the cleaners are the lifelines of my family and they never get the appreciation they deserve.

Manish Pole, director and co-founder, Total Yoga

I travelled to Bali in March to teach at a festival, however, with the lockdown, I'm still here. Now, it's back to basics, with focus on physical, mental well-being and emotional connect. As we slowly exit the lockdown, we need to find purpose.

MC Abbas, anchor-presenter

The lockdown saw many of my shows getting cancelled and pending payments getting stalled. While this came as a shocker, over the lockdown I made peace with the situation. I realised that what is lasting are connections with family. Never having entered the kitchen, I decided to learn cooking from my mum and made Dum Biryani, Penne Pasta and Gulab Jamun.

Illustration: Tapas Ranjan

Sudha Menon, author

I have said I am severely tech-challenged and yet, in the last two months I have conducted half a dozen writing workshops, leadership talks, and live sessions on social media. And to think that I have resisted the demand for online workshops all these years seems so weird now.

I now know we need not hit the mall or go to a noisy party to seek entertainment. I have spent the lockdown learning music online, deriving pleasure from seeing the first shoots emerge from the stuff I have planted in my balcony garden and watched films with my husband. I have learnt that we can lead a content, fulfilled life with one tenth of the stuff that we think we need.

Danish Sait, actor-comic

Minimilism is sexy. You need don't an excess or constant supply of clothes, shoes, etc al. What we have is sufficient, there's much more than clothes that maketh a man.

Kaushik Raju, COO, Atria Group

Prior to the lockdown, there was a big emphasis on the online world and people disconnecting in the real world, but the lockdown has really shown us the value of physical interaction and the need to connect with people. It's a learning that personal connection is really important in everyone's life.

ROLL CALL

WASP UP!

A paper wasp is caught in the process of building a nest on a thin wire at Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru. Picture taken on a Canon 7d mark II camera. • Pic: Seshagiri

A pitch for the planet

• Express Features

A musical composition about Mother Earth, sustainability practices undertaken by corporates, the transformation of lakes in India... An online streaming event, Alternative 2, will bring together personalities from music, performing arts, and thought leaders, to create awareness on World Environment Day (June 5). Organised by VIMOVE Foundation, a non-profit organisation, it will feature 25 changemakers – musician-environmentalist Vasundhara Das, flautist Rakesh Chaurasia, Biocon executive chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Manipal Global Education chairman TV Mohandas Pai, musicians Bryden and Parth and Merlin D'Souza, speed painter Vilas Nayak, environmentalist Arun Krishnamurthy, Vimlendu Jha , actor Denzil Smith among others. "My birthday is on June 2 followed by World Environment Day. I wanted to mark both occasions by doing something that makes a difference," says city-based Vinay Shindhe, founder of the organisation.

Each participant has pre-recorded something for the virtual concert. "Our changemakers will talk about deforestation, industrial sustainability, being better prepared for future pandemics, etc. These are flexible topics but at the end of the day, they touch upon nature, mankind, COVID-19 on interconnections," says Shindhe, who believes that such messages might stay longer in an audience member's mind if it comes through a mixture of music and arts.

The almost two-hour long concert will be streamed on line for free but voluntary contributions by audience members will be donated to COVID-19 relief funds. While the concert will stream all the participant portions from pre-recorded videos, Shindhe's and a moderator's parts will be aired live. Shindhe, along with 25 other volunteers, including five students from Christ University, have spent their lockdown days in bringing out this concert, an effort that they are now proud of. "If we had to do this concert offline, we might have reached just 1,000 people. But now, it has the potential to create a pan-India impact," says Shindhe.

Agrees Pai, who says initiatives like this will help in building a healthier environment. He adds that while COVID-19 has put us on lockdown, people during this time have experienced cleaner air, bluer skies and healthier water. "It has demonstrated that the negative effects of climate change can be reversed, if we choose to keep carbon emissions under control through our activities. It is time to make the conscious choice to restore the balance in our environment by adopting small but meaningful changes in how we live," says Pai.

(The concert will be streamed on Book MyShow on June 5, 7pm onwards)

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

"The changemakers will talk about deforestation, industrial sustainability, being better prepared for future pandemics, etc
— Vinay Shindhe, founder, VIMOVE Foundation

Rakesh Chaurasia

GARAGE BEATS

Filtering the punch

• Muneef Khan

After winning the battle of bands at the 23rd edition of Bengaluru's prestigious annual music festival -- Strawberry Fields, 2020 – in January, Bengaluru garage rockers, Iyer's Filter Coffee, are back. This time, they have come out with their debut full-length album, titled Is This How You Do It, which was released on May 23. Featuring Rushil Mishra on guitar and lead vocals, Dennis Dey on bass and backing vocals, Pushkar Ravindra on guitar and backing vocals, and Sachin Iyer on drums, the eight-track album is also a step out of their comfort zone, says Dey. He adds, "The songs are fuelled by our indie-garage sound along with influences from bands that we envy. There are experimental bits with hints of pop and a bit of metal."

Carrying influences from international bands like Arctic Monkeys, Foo Fighters and the Strokes, the album is a fast-paced garage-rock affair with hints of alternative elements. "Deytime would be one of the favourites from the album. It has a bit of humour and most of our songs – penned by Ravindra – are also derived from our personal experiences," says Dey.

Sonically, the band has strived to portray fresher elements while they retain their brisk sound with a slice of upbeat songwriting and wacky instrumentals. Since their formation in late 2017, Iyer's Filter Coffee has gone ahead to release a single and a five-track EP – Coldturkey (2019) -- which received applause from critics and listeners alike. "We wouldn't say that we stick to one sound as such, we are still working around newer additions. However, this album was a more experimental effort," asserts Dey.

While the band was ready with most of their material in March and was looking forward to an album launch, plans took a back seat due to the lockdown. So they went ahead to release it on streaming platforms. Dey points out that being unable to perform is a concern which is shared by most musicians. "The entire independent music scene is suffering in the current scenario. For us, this release was more on the lines of getting our music out there and not whether it would be successful. It is for the listeners and the dedicated fan base," he says.

(From left) Sachin Iyer, Rushil Mishra, Pushkar Ravindra and Dennis Dey

"For us, this release was more on the lines of getting our music out there and not whether it would be successful — Dennis Dey

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BUDGIE, BRIDGE AND BIG DJINN

by Ranjit Lal

Outspoken Budgie; Bridge, a steady teenager with a rocky past; and Big Djinn, the ferocious Tibetan Mastiff-German Shepherd mix set about getting their own back on a gang of mean-spirited bullies.

GITA: THE BATTLE OF THE WORLDS

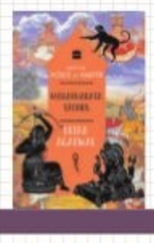
by Sonal Sachdev Patel

When 11-year-old Dev's father dies, he can't stop lashing out at those he loves. Until he meets Sanjay, a sprite-like being who claims there is a battle raging inside Dev's own body.

THE ADVENTURES OF KAKABABU

by Sunil Gangopadhyay

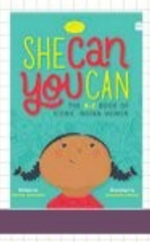
The desire to solve unsolved mysteries of the world refuses to leave Raja Roychowdhury, fondly known as Kakababu, alone. Shontu, has finally been allowed to accompany Kakababu on these trips.



MAHABHARATA STORIES

by Deepa Agarwal

Selected stories for children from the Mahabharata ranging from how the Mahabharata was written to the Mritasanjivani story, the birth of Devavrata, the palace of Lac, Draupadi's Swayamvara, the passing of Bhishma and more.



SHE CAN YOU CAN

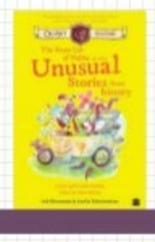
by Garima Kushwaha

An A to Z biography of iconic Indian women, one for each letter of the English alphabet. Each character is represented by an illustrative sketch and a 500-word summary.

LIKE A GIRL

by Aparna Jain

Do you ever get the feeling that girls have it less easy than boys? Have you been told to behave 'like a girl'? That you should learn to cook and be nice and keep your legs crossed? Well, here are the stories of fifty-six women who broke the rules to forge new paths for themselves and others.



THE SWAN CAR OF NABHA & OTHER UNUSUAL STORIES FROM HISTORY

by Mini Menon

Eccentric maharajas and Nawabs, bizarre believe-it-or-not tales and hilarious twists and turns come together in this first book of the Quirky History series.

THE M SERIES: MAGICAL TALES

by Shashi Warrier

Much of what makes for a masterful story starts with the letter M... Mysteries, Magic, Monsters! The M series promises to be a marvellous mix of all three.

FIT BIT

UTTANPADASANA

THE RAISED-LEG POSE

In Sanskrit, uttana means 'intense stretch,' pada means 'leg' or 'foot,' and asana means 'pose'. This asana is said to encourage peace and ease irritability. It is also believed to open up the visuddha chakra as the neck is lengthened. As blood flow is increased to the heart and neck, it is said to encourage love and self-assurance. This asana also opens the manipura and muladhara chakras. The manipura chakra is often associated with energy, willpower and accomplishment while the muladhara chakra is believed to govern instinct, courage and survival as it awakens the kundalini.

STEPS

- Lie flat on your back and breathe normally.
- Place your hands on either side and palms should be facing down.
- Inhale slowly and lift the legs at 45-60 degrees from the ground.
- Hold this posture for some time (15-20 seconds) to feel pressure in lower abs.
- While exhaling, relax the posture by lowering legs i.e. starting position.
- Repeat this for 3-4 times daily.
- It can also be practised with raising one leg. Alternate the legs during such a practice.
- This pose has advanced variations too.

BENEFITS

- Cures stomach disorders like acidity, indigestion and constipation.
- Strengthens the abdominal organs, back, hip and thigh muscles.
- Helpful for those suffering from gas problems, acidity, arthritis, heart problems and waist pain.
- It is the best asana to cure back pain.
- Tones stomach muscles.
- Helps in losing weight.
- Good for diabetic patients.
- Improves the function of digestive system.
- Removes gas from the intestine.
- Good for increasing blood circulation.
- Helps reduce weight in the abdomen area, thighs and hips.
- Improves the function of reproductive organs.

LIMITATIONS

- Pregnant women should avoid this asana for the first few months. They should consult a yogic expert before practising it in the third trimester. They may take the support of wall while practising.
- Those who have high BP, slip disc, ulcer or abdominal surgery must avoid.
- Practise this asana under expert guidance.

— By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

INSTANT SEMOLINA VADA

INGREDIENTS

- **Semolina/rava:** 1 cup
- **Curd:** 3/4 cup
- **Ginger:** a small piece, finely chopped
- **Green chilli:** 1, chopped
- **Onion:** 1, finely chopped (optional)
- **Salt** to taste
- **Oil** for frying
- **Curry leaves:** a few

METHOD

- Add salt to the rava. Soak rava in curd for 10 minutes.
- Add ginger, chilli, curry leaves and onion. Mix well.
- Heat the oil. Shape the dough like vada. Comes out well on the palm.
- Fry on medium flame till done. Serve hot.

— by Rama Shecar, Cochin

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

GUBBI MELE BRAHMASTRA (Kannada)

A software engineer meets a woman and falls head over heels for her, but all hell breaks loose once Gubbi finds himself on the wrong side of the villainous Mr Robinhood and Venkat Reddy.

- Cast: Raj B. Shetty. Kavitha Gowda
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

MANTO (Hindi)

Saadat Hasan Manto, an established story writer in the Indian film industry, is devastated when his family is forced to flee to Pakistan due to the tensions between the Hindus and Muslims.

- Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Rasika Dugal, Tahir Bhasin, Feryna Wazheir
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

KAAVIYA THALAIVAN (Tamil)

Two rival artists at Sivadas Swamigal's drama troupe compete in everything they do. While one of them goes on to become successful, the other fails in life.

- Cast: Siddharth, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Vedhika Kumar
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

RICHIE (Tamil)

Megha, a journalist, sets out to work on a story about the death of Richie, a young man. While doing so, she ends up meeting different people connected to him.

- Cast: Nivin Pauly, Shraddha Srinath, Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

CARBON (Malayalam)

A young opportunistic man Sibi sets out on a journey to find the quickest way to achieve success in life. Circumstances lead him to a place which is rumoured to hide a buried ancient treasure.

- Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Mamtha Mohandas, Soubin Shahir
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: `399 per year

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

IDHARKUTHANE AASAIPATTAI BALAKUMARA (Tamil)

Bala, a drunk salesperson, hits a pregnant woman while driving. However, he has to go searching for Kumar whose rare blood type can help save her.

- Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Ashwin Kakumanu, Nandita Swetha, Swathi Reddy
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

MAJILI (Telugu)

After being abandoned by his lover, Anshu, Poorna takes to alcohol and is forced to marry his neighbour, Sravani. However, he soon discovers her unrequited love for him and falls for her.

- Cast: Samantha Akkineni, Naga Chaitanya, Divyansha Kaushik
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

TAKE ME SOMEWHERE NICE (Dutch)

A Dutch girl of Bosnian descent travels to Bosnia to visit her sick father. It will be the first time they will see each other.

- Cast: Sara Luna Zoric, Ali Zijlstra, Emir Hadžihafizbegovi
- Watch on: Mubi
- Registration: ₹ 499 per month

LAST FRAGMENTS OF WINTER (Mandarin)

A boy runs an errand for his mother and realises that she is dying. A man attends the funeral of a former lover and speaks to her ghost. A woman learns to appreciate the little things around her in everyday life. Meanwhile, in another place at another time, a young girl tries to photograph an incredibly beautiful snow landscape. She then finds an antique watch buried in the snow.

- Cast: Arisa Koike, Berg Lee, Tan Ley Teng
- Watch on: Mubi
- Registration: ₹ 499 per month

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND (English)

Joel and Clementine begin a relationship after a train journey together, unaware that they had previously been in a relationship, the memories of which were clinically erased.

- Cast: Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst, Elijah Wood, Mark Ruffalo
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

MAUDIE (English)

Maud, a woman suffering from arthritis, begins painting as a hobby while she works as a housekeeper for Everett Lewis. As her art becomes more popular, Everett asks her to marry him.

- Cast: Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke, Kari Matchett
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

CLASSIC COMEBACK

DEVON KE DEV... MAHADEV

Lord Shiva is an ascetic. However, he falls in love with Sati, the granddaughter of Lord Brahma, and becomes a householder as their relationship shapes the universe.

- Cast: Mohit Raina, Mouni Roy
- Watch on: Star Plus
- Monday to Sunday at 9.30 pm

SHRIKANT

Raj Lakshmi nurses Shrikant to health when he is affected by plague. During a voyage to Burma, he meets Abhaya, who is abandoned by her husband.

- Cast: Farooq Sheikh, Irrfan Khan, Tiku Talsania, Mrinal Kulkarni
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 3.30 pm

BUNIYAAD

A saga of an upper middle class Punjabi family from Lahore and its four generations spanning over 50 years from the 1920s to the 1950s with many interesting sub plots.

- Cast: Alok Nath, Anita Kanwar, Dalip Tahil
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 10.30 pm

FLOP SHOW

Actor Jaspal Bhatti and his team of comedians present a satirical take on various societal issues through skits and sketches.

- Watch on: DD National
- Time: 6 pm every day

UPANISHAD GANGA

The show shares the knowledge of Upanishads explaining its meaning in the modern context through stories.

- Cast: Dwaraka Prasad
- Watch on: DD Bharati
- Daily at: 6 pm

CHANAKYA

The series is a fictionalised version of the life-history of economist, strategist and political theorist, Chanakya, who was also the royal advisor of King Chandragupta Maurya.

- Cast: Chandraprakash Dwivedi, Dinesh Shakul, Surendra Pal
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 5 pm

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

DANDUPALYA (KANNADA)

A gang of notorious criminals go about looting houses, raping and murdering women. Chalapathi, a brave and brilliant police officer, sets out to capture the gang and bring them to justice.

- Cast: Pooja Gandhi, Raghu Mukherjee

RATHAVARA (KANNADA)

Ratha is a hitman and right-hand man employed by MLA Ravishankar. As a top ranking politician, he expresses a strange desire concerning a transgender, which Ravi must fulfil in order to keep his job.

- Cast: Srilmurali, Rachita Ram

BOMBAAT (KANNADA)

Due to a misunderstanding, Shalini, the police commissioner's daughter, gets Anand arrested with her father's help. The tables turn when Anand rescues Shalini from a group of gangsters.

- Cast: Ganesh, Ramya

GAMBEERAM (TAMIL)

Police officer Muthusamy crosses swords with a local politician, and in the fight, he loses his wife. Unabated and with more power, he rises again to take on ruthless politicians.

- Cast: R Sarathkumar, Laila

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 ARE WE INTERRUPTING THE KINKY SEX LIVES OF FISH? BY MARAH J HARDT

Is human behavior interrupting marine sex life? Take a deep dive with marine biologist Marah J Hardt to discover what exactly goes down under the sea.

2 HOW OCEAN NOISE DESTROYS MARINE ECOSYSTEMS BY STEVE SIMPSON

In this talk, marine biologist Steve Simpson describes how human-made sounds are the culprits behind catastrophic marine disruptions. Simpson lays out several concrete methods for a relatively quick and easy fix to decrease our noise levels.

3 HOW ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AFFECTS OUR HEALTH BY DRAGANA ROGULJA

In the last century, our sleep patterns have been heavily influenced by artificial light sources. In this instructive talk, sleep researcher Dragana Rogulja outlines the damage this does to our health and suggests some ways to combat the problem.

4 HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES THE WAY WE THINK BY LERA BORODITSKY

Cognitive scientist Lera Boroditsky shares examples of language — from an aboriginal community in Australia that uses cardinal directions instead of left and right to the multiple words for blue in Russian — that suggest the answer is a resounding yes.

5 A LOVE POEM FOR LONELY PRIME NUMBERS BY HARRY BAKER

Performance poet (and math student) Harry Baker spins a love poem about his favourite kind of numbers — the lonely, love-lorn prime. Stay on for two more lively, inspiring poems from this charming performer.

FACEBOOK/INSTA LIVE

MUSIC CONCERT

Stay safe at home and enjoy a music concert by Sanjna Banik and Arjan Singh

- June 1, 5.30 pm onwards
- @houseconcertindia
- Live on: Instagram

TRANSLATION TUESDAY

Journalist and translator Nazes Afroz will be in conversation with Sampurna Chattarji, poet, author and translator. ● June 2, 5.30 pm ● @kitbakhanabooks ● Live on: Instagram

Dance it out

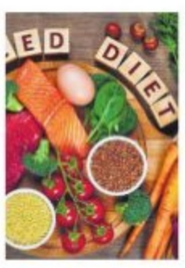
Ittefaq, a co-incidental 30-minute virtual performance. By @Jainil_Dreamtodance

- June 4, 10 pm
- Live on: Instagram and YouTube

Session

Sanjay Gupta from HCL Technologies will address class 12 students, followed by Q&A. By HCL

- June 2, 4 pm
- Live on: Facebook



Health

Dietician Minal Gada to talk about dos and don'ts of managing weight during lockdown. By Sparks Live

- Today, 6 pm
- Live on Facebook

DIAL A SHOPPER

Personal shoppers, who suggest latest styles and fits, are replacing that buddy who used to accompany you on outings

A creation by Payal Khandwala

Vidya Iyengar

Window shopping may not regain the pre-Covid era popularity anytime soon, but in these times of the new normal, that friend who used to accompany you, egging you on to buy a dress or not giving the nod of approval for those stretch pants, is getting replaced with personal shoppers. The 'consultant' connects with customers via phone or video calls to help with the remote shopping experience or, should you decided to step into the store, suggests what's available, suits the occasion, or points out alternatives, depending on requirements.

The idea is gaining favour with store owners as, despite safety norms in place, some standalone shops that have reopened are struggling to woo customers. "With people staying indoors and the store being shut, there has been much revenue loss over the last two months. Right now, we have initiated several safety measures after the store has reopened but footfalls remain dwindled," admits Kris, designer and curator, Basava by Kris. To counter this, they've been organising walkthroughs of the store, showing and suggesting products on WhatsApp video calls, with the personal shopper explaining the products in detail. "Online shopping is what most e-commerce majors offer – it is one size fits all. Here, there is scope for interaction, building a rapport and relationship with prospective customers," says Kris.

To make the experience less clinical and robotic, designer Payal Khandwala, who owns a standalone store in the city, is sending across apparels of a customer's choice to their residence. "Many of our personal shoppers have been working with us for years. So, in a way, they know our clientele and their tastes. This helps in making suggestions when a customer is, say, looking for a kurta. The personal shopper would suggest maybe a fuller, slimmer or relaxed style," she says, adding that this new style of shopping is not based on a certain algorithm.

Apparels once bought are home-delivered, and can be exchanged or returned with a refund within 24 hours. And once back in the store, they are steamed. "Our personal shopper may suggest to a client whose looking for a blouse to go for a shirt that can also be worn with trousers. Now, it's about understanding the sentiment of the buyer," she says.

Just as relationship mangers in banks call to check on clients, stores too are warming up to the practice. Shoppers Stop has over 280 personal shoppers who have been connecting with customers even during the lockdown. "Personal shoppers curate suggestions by linking their understanding of the customer and data available on their tabs of the customer's shopping journey. This helps them service better from the online and offline store inventory," says Uma Talreja, customer care associate, at the brand.

Many of our personal shoppers have been working with us for years. So, in a way, they know our clientele and their tastes. This helps in making suggestions
—**Payal Khandwala,** fashion designer

Online shopping is what most e-commerce majors offer. Here, there is scope for interaction, building a rapport and relationship with prospective customers
—**Kris,** designer and curator, Basava by Kris

ARE YOU READY FOR A VIRTUAL DATE?

Kakoli Mukherjee

Dating is all about meeting new people, but in a world where isolation has become the norm, what does the future hold? With watching a movie in the theatre, or having a romantic dinner at a restaurant out of the equation, are people still thinking about dating? If dating apps are to be believed, the answer is a resounding 'yes'. Matchmaking apps have seen an increase in the number of users during the lockdown. A spokesperson from Tinder said: "During the time of self-distancing, people are feeling a strong mix of anxiety, loneliness, and uncertainty. But this hasn't meant disconnecting for our members. In March, as parts of the world went into lockdown, members started 'Passporting' into other parts of the world. India saw a 25% increase in the rate of 'Passporting'."

Shalini Singh, founder of andwemet, a matchmaking platform for singles above the age of 25 years, said, "We have seen a rise in the number of users, but fake profiles increased too. Thanks to our signing up process which also demands an id proof, we were able to weed them out."

OkCupid, another dating app, analysed how users around the world are readjusting their dating lives in the wake of Covid-19. Matches on the platform have increased by 10% worldwide since March 2020, while conversations have increased over 20%. "There have been over 50 million intro messages sent across the world on our app over the last month among daters connecting for the first time. With establishments around the world temporarily closed, people are looking for human connection now more than ever before," CEO Ariel Charytan said.

With conventional date ideas no longer feasible, are there new ways in which daters are spending time with each other? Shalini said: "Traditional date nights have been replaced by more participatory activities like cooking. A user told us how a guy took her through the steps of making rasgulla virtually. People are also introducing their pets to one another, and having a direct glimpse at another person's life."

ILLUSTRATION: TAPAS RANJAN

According to the the Tinder spokesperson, members on the app found virtual ways to replicate the human interaction that was missing from daily lives, such as "cooking dinner together, Passporting to other cities to check in on each other, and having a virtual date-night".

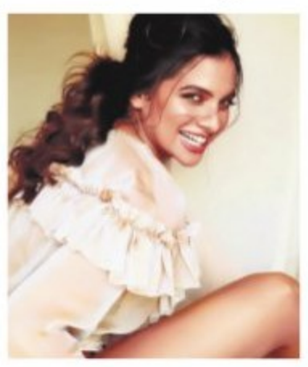
With physical meetings posing potential health threats, are there features that help users take an informed decision before they meet? "We have features like Conversation Starter questions through which you can check if your interests match before you start chatting," said Shalini.

OkCupid too allows daters to match and get to know each other through questions on various things like thoughts on chai and pakoda on a rainy day to women working after marriage, Ariel added. "In response to a question on the app — 'How do you plan on dating during this time of Covid?', 91% of Indian respondents said they would continue to date, albeit virtually," said Ariel.

In response to a question on the app about how you plan on dating during this time of Covid, 91% of Indian respondents said they would continue to date, albeit virtually
— Ariel Charytan, CEO, OkCupid

Daddy cool
On the occasion of Crazy Star Ravinchandran's birthday, his son Manoranjan Ravichandran didn't miss a chance to express his love for him. He posted a picture of both of them, captioning it, "The source of my courage and encouragement, the most handsome and kindhearted man that I have ever known. Happy Birthday Dad!"

Stepping it up
Tanya Hope's lastest video on her Instagram page can wipe away all your Monday blues. The actor, who is known for her killer moves, posted a video showing her belly-dancing to a Bollywood number. Her dance partner was *Bigg Boss 7 Kannada* fame dancer Kishen Bilagali.



Zero-waste made easy

Simran Ahuja

Face masks from items you have at home; a floor cleaner made with baking soda, white vinegar, essential oils and water; an epsom salt and water natural mosquito repellent... A new e-book by a city-based firm gives 'DIY recipes' to help someone get a better idea of how they can reuse, repurpose or recycle things they have in their pantry. Priced at ₹300, the book, brought out by Bare Necessities, a company that offers zero-waste solutions, includes over 25 recipes that make leading such a lifestyle easier.

"The lockdown has seen many people try their hand at cooking and baking. The e-book aims to show them how things lying around at home can be used to strive for a chemical-free and low-waste lifestyle -- with skin care, arts and crafts, home cleaning solutions," says Mehul Manjeshwar, chief marketing officer.

The e-book complements the team's other new initiative – Bare Thoughts, which was launched last month. According to founder Sahar Mansoor, the blogs, webinars and podcasts they've been releasing under this are "casual, unfiltered, bare thoughts and conversations on new ideas." For example, their first podcast had a conversation with Asha Scariya, the chief creative officer at People Kraft – a sustainability focused enterprise. Talk points included gender equality, transparent and ethical supply chains, and environmental sustainability. The next one featured a Germany-based collective, Hands.On.Matter. "We wanted to look at grassroot initiatives around the world since they are the ones that need to be highlighted at the moment," says Mansoor, adding that upcoming podcasts, which go out once a week, will have conversations with people involved in making board games and another Germany-based organisation that works with rescued food to repurpose food waste. Timed between 20 and 30 minutes, they will continue to be a post-lockdown feature as well.

While the current economical situation calls for increased sales, Mansoor felt that it would be insensitive at the moment. Instead, the team chose to roll out free online resources to make learning more accessible to everyone. "More and more people have been taking cognizance of the birds outdoors or how unpolluted the air has been with the lockdown in place. So now was the perfect time to capitalise on spreading knowledge," she says, adding, "The biggest takeaway for people can be that they too can be a part of the solution."

Sahar Mansoor

The lockdown has seen many people try their hand at cooking and baking. The e-book aims to show them how things found at home can be used to strive for a chemical-free and low-waste lifestyle, with DIY solutions for skin care, arts and crafts, and home cleanings
—**Mehul Manjeshwar,** chief marketing officer, Bare Necessities

CITY READ

NGO organises digital health mela
The Heart Care Foundation of India, a non-profit organisation is conducting a digital COVID-19 health mela till June 7. Participants can look forward to various e-stalls and other events, including an interaction with people who have recovered from Coronavirus. Details available on Perfecthealthmela.com

PARENTING

LET THE TEACHERS DO THEIR JOB

For representational purpose

MENAKA RAMAN

The writer's philosophy is: if there's no blood, don't call me

The boys' new academic year at school has commenced. Instead of the usual back-to-school routine which involves picking up school supplies, trying on last year's shoes to see if we can squeeze a few more months out of them, and a last-minute scramble to see which bits of uniform we keep, which ones we pass on and which ones get turned into kitchen towels, this year consisted of only one thing. We ordered two new Chrome books.

The day before school started, I had a wobble. How was this going to be? Should I take the day off to settle them in to their lessons? Were they going to be okay? My fears were founded on a series of articles, forwards, videos and memes I'd consumed throughout the summer about the horrors of online school. The chaos, the technical glitches, the burnout. The next morning, the kids were at their laptops, they logged in and met their friends, greeted their old teachers and tried to suss out the new ones via small squares on Google Meet. They started the day with mindfulness, had breaks in between for snack and lunch and even dribbled their footballs and did jumping jacks. It seemed to be going okay. We did have a few wobbles here and there. The younger one didn't want to see his friends like this. He wanted to SEE them.

The older one cribbed a little about not being able to chat with his friends during class. But by and large they seemed okay. As the days progressed, they settled down into this new normal. As parents on WhatsApp groups around me worried about syllabus sharing and textbooks and homework and whether the kids were doing enough or too much or too little, I had to keep reminding myself how privileged we were that these were the extent of our concerns for our children's education. An article on an online news platform cited that only '8 per cent of all households with members aged between five and 24 have both a computer and an Internet connection' in India while only 24 per cent of homes have a smartphone.

The article also points out that while smartphones are fine for learning apps they aren't suited for longer lessons or further reading. The numbers sharply bring into perspective how lucky a very small percentage of our children are in being able to even have an education to look forward to in the next year. Instead of worrying about if there's enough homework, and how will they cover the entire syllabus like this and is this teacher too strict, let's step away from the computers and leave our children to it, shall we? We didn't sit next to them in their classroom before, so why should we sit next to them now? Parents, stay out of the classrooms and let the teachers take over. Our role over the next few months and possibly year is to keep an eye on our children for mental wobbles, stress and anxiety and do what we can to alleviate them. We are lucky that is the worst of our problems as parents. They are not issues to take lightly, but they are not insurmountable.

Rishab Shetty

RISHAB SHETTY TO PORTRAY UNDERWORLD DON AMAR ALVA

The project marks the directorial debut of Nitesh, who has worked as an associate with the actor-director; the team is working on the script and the film will go on floors in 2021

A Sharadhaa

The lockdown seems to have worked in favour of Rishab Shetty, who has used this time to chalk out his career plans towards direction as well as acting. Even as the director is gearing up to kickstart shooting for *Rudraprayag*, he is also set to play a lead role, portraying underworld don Amar Alva. According to sources, this untitled film is set during the 1980-90s. Rishab is currently working on the script along with his associate Nitesh, who is making his directorial debut with the movie.

Amar Alva was known for his charming yet daring personality in the Mangaluru underworld. His name was mostly heard in mafia circle along with likes of Muthappa Rai, M P Jayaraj and Oil Kumar. Amar Alva was shot dead in the year 1992.

Rishab, as a director has been trying to bring in a touch of versatility in his subjects, with *Ricky, Kirik Party, Sarkari Hi. Pra. Shaale, Kasaragodu, Koduge: Ramanna Rai* and upcoming *Rudraprayag* starring Anant Nag. As an actor, he began as a lead hero, playing the role of detective Diwakar in the crime thriller, *Bell Bottom* directed by Jayathirtha. . The film had a successful run at the box office and is getting a remake in a few other languages as well. *Harikathe alla Giri Kathe*, directed by Giri Krishna, will also see him as a part of the comedy-drama.

However, the challenge of playing an underworld don is a fresh attempt. While the production details of the project are yet to be revealed, the film will go on floors in 2021, and only after Rishab completes his current commitments with *Rudraprayag, Harikathe alla Giri kathe* and *Bell Bottom 2*. The film on Amar Alva raises curiosity about how Rishab will handle a subject, which needs him to flaunt machetes and guns.

'Raambo 2 gave me popularity and recognition'

... says Ashika Ranganth, who feels lucky to have been associated with some of the best directors in the industry; while she wants to be part of commercial entertainers, her wish list also features mature roles, historical characters and woman-centric subjects

CE Features

Ashika Ranganath has interesting projects lined up, including Suni's directorial, *Avatar Purusha,* starring Sharan, as well as Pavan Wadeyar's *Raymo,* in which she is paired opposite Ishan. Both the films are in the last leg of completion. She is now waiting to begin shooting her portions for Srimurali-starrer *MadaGaja*, directed by Mahesh Kumar. In the meantime, a couple of filmmakers approached her to cast her in their films. However, Ashika is said to have told them to wait until they hold detailed discussions in person.

"I don't like listening to scripts over the phone, and would rather prefer discussing them in detail with the team. I will do that as and when I find it safe to venture out," Ashika tells *CE*.

She adds that the second part of her film career started with *Raambo 2*. "As an actor, the phrase, 'climbing the ladder', perfectly fits my film journey. Having started with *Crazy Boy* opposite a newcomer, and having played important characters in films like *Raju Kannada Medium* and *Mugulu Nage,* it was *Raambo 2* that gave me the break to play a solo heroine. The name Ashika Ranganath got known among the audience through this film, and it gave me recognition and popularity," she says.

Ashika admits that since *Raambo 2*, she has been very choosy about her projects. "As a beginner, I didn't know how to choose a script and was not much aware of acting either. I would just follow what directors would tell me. But with *Raambo 2*, I realised that picking up the right script is very important for an actor, and that was the sole reason I picked up the film, which ran for 100 days," she recalls.

For Ashika, who has had six film releases so far, directors play an important role, and she feels lucky to be working with a good lot of filmmakers, which have helped establish her as an actor. "Even though I have to do small roles in a couple of films, they have given me learning experience," she says.

Her wish list now consists of mature roles. "Every character I have played till date is of my age — cute, soft and subtle. However, I feel mature roles like the ones we see in historical characters, or a woman-oriented script is where we can carry more responsibility on our shoulders. Though I have a long way to go, I have this thirst for doing serious roles," says Ashika, giving examples of films like *Thappad* and *Chhapaak*. "To be in showbiz, it is equally important to be part of commercial entertainers, and I want to go with both hand in hand," she adds.

Lockdown lessons: "I got to spend some quality time with family. Irrespective of our arguments, I do have my mother and my sister (Anusha Ranganath), and we still enjoy staying together. This time also allowed me to understand the importance of a homemaker, for whom lockdown has never made a difference," she says.

As an actor, there is no end to mastering the art, and Ashika, who likes to observe and learn, made it a point to watch one film a day. "While dance has been an escape, I along with my family have watched some of the best films in all languages, along with web series. This has been the schedule over the last few months. Having got used to this lifestyle, I am afraid how it's going to be once I get back to the film sets," she signs off.

Ashika Ranganath

Akshay warns against fake casting calls for *Filhall 2*

CE Features

Akshay Kumar has alerted his fans against fake casting calls for *Filhall 2*. Earlier this year, Akshay had announced a sequel to his hit 2019 music video *Filhall*, co-starring debutante Nupur Sanon. However, the makers have issued a statement that they are not looking to cast anyone new for the track and warned people to not respond to any fake casting calls doing the rounds.

'Betaal is my hate letter to England'

Shilajit Mitra

Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and out on Netflix, the 4-part miniseries Betaal is a modern-day zombie horror with a colonial twist. The show focuses on an elite counterinsurgency squad who arrive at a remote village to clear out a highway. In doing so, they end up triggering an ancient curse, which unleashes an army of East India Company zombies.

For Director Patrick Graham, the battle between new and old colonizers was a blast. "In England, they like to think of their glorious past, when in reality it was a series of atrocities," says the British writer-director working in Mumbai, calling the series his 'hate letter to England.' "So it's a bit of a cathartic release seeing modern-day Indian soldiers machine-gunning a whole bunch of redcoats."

Betaal is created by Patrick and co-directed by him and Nikhil Mahajan. Nikhil is known for directing the 2013 Marathi-language thriller Pune-52. He also helmed the Shreyas Talpade-starrer superhero film Baji (2015).

For their new venture, Nikhil and Patrick wanted to blend the zombie genre with the figure of the Betaal, a revenant who haunts charnel grounds and is analogous to the western vampire. "We picked up elements from the known Vikram Aur Betaal stories and merged them into our fantastical zombie-action narrative," Nikhil says. "While the show is not based on that legend, it has the right amount of familiarity for an audience to smile."

Patrick Graham

Betaal is led by Viineet Kumar, making his horror debut after a slew of sports films (Mukkabaaz, Gold, Saand Ki Aankh). Viineet plays Vikram Sirohi, the deputy of the crack Baaz Squad. Along with his team, he's tasked to uproot a tribal settlement and make way for the lucrative project. Blinded by duty, Vikram uses force and violence on the alleged insurgents, while also reeling from PTSD.

"I was not interested in the stereotypical portrayal of a military man," Viineet says. "My character, Vikram, is deeply troubled, confused, and weak. I wanted to explore that psyche, the internal battle he fights alongside the external one."

Being a doctor, Viineet researched about the mental health of soldiers who return from conflict. "I have many friends in the forces. PTSD is a common thing among our military personnel, though in India we don't talk much about it."

Aahana Kumra, who plays deputy commander Ahluwalia, says she always wanted to essay a soldier. Aahana's grandfather was in the police force. Her mother has been a police officer for 40 years. "I've always had a deep admiration for female officers," she says. "I think if I wasn't an actor I would have been in the armed forces."

Betaal was filmed in Igatpuri and Lonavala in Maharashtra. Aahana recalls the grueling shoot in the hilly jungle terrain. "We were shooting at a 45-degrees temperature with guns, batons, and knives in our hands. It was monsoon with scorpions and snakes around us. I also got to experience prosthetics for the first time."

Actor Jitendra Joshi plays the antagonist in Betaal. His character, Mudhalvan, is a greedy contractor, and nothing like the affable cop he played in Sacred Games. Jitendra argues he was eager to break type. "Playing another Katekar would have added one more room to my house," he says, "but not bring creative satisfaction."

The actor points out the legacy of yesteryear actor Pran. "Pran Sahab was a wonderful human being but whenever he came on screen, people would be scared of him. I wanted to do something similar with Mudhalvan. I wanted to disgust the audience."

A still from *Betaal*

A mission best left aborted

Series: Space Force
Created by: Steve Carell, Greg Daniels
Cast: Steve Carell, John Malkovich, Ben Schwartz, Diana Silvers, Lisa Kudrow
Streaming on: Netflix
RATING
Rating: 1.5/5

Gopinath Rajendran

Just a few hours back, NASA and SpaceX blasted off humans into space, and ushered in a new era in commercial space travel. In a year that's riddled with complications, the launch has got us looking up to the sky in hope. What a time then to try an come up with a series on a species that once gawked at the stars but is now flying towards them. Unfortunately, what we get with Space Force is a crummy take on the United States Space Force trying to get "boots on the moon".

Air Force Lieutenant General Mark Naird (Steve Carell), gets appointed out of nowhere as the first Chief of Operations of the newest United States military branch: the USSF. This means he has to relocate from Washington DC to Colorado with his wife, Maggie (Lisa Kudrow), and teenage daughter, Erin (Diana Silvers). A year later, the Space Force is about to launch a new satellite called Epsilon 6 into orbit but things don't look good from Mark's position. He faces weird challenges from random adversaries, his daughter hates the relocation, and for some reason, his wife gets imprisoned. In a nutshell, Mark's everyday life is so despicable that if it got any worse, it would have to show him watching this series he features in. For a show that involves one of the best names in Hollywood when it comes to the comedy genre and a veteran writer known for Saturday Night Live, and The Simpsons, Space Force is shockingly unfunny. The fact that both Carell and Daniels redefined the workplace comedy subgenre with their acclaimed collaboration, The Office (US version), makes the ineffectiveness of this series even more bizarre.

The series has no trajectory, and is a mishmash of ideas that don't mix well. There are, of course, a few worthwhile moments that make it possible to get through the 10 episodes. The scenes involving Carell and John Malkovich, who plays the role of Dr Adrian Mallory, a Space Force scientist, are some of the best parts. Fans of pop culture are sure to dig the umpteen references to films such as Star Wars and Star Trek. While on it, the references to tweets from the White House too are aplenty. In one such tweet, the line, 'boots on the moon' is misspelt as 'b**bs on the moon'. But these gags are limited as the makers of Space Force seem reluctant to really go for the kill. From joking about topics like panty lines and dog-eating chimps, the series takes weak digs at various affairs such as wars and vaccines. The splendid cast including the likes of Noah Emmerich, Diedrich Bader, Patrick Warburton, Jane Lynch, and Dan Bakkedahl, is severely underutilised. And don't even get me started on how much screen space is given to Lisa Kudrow.

By and large, this series fails to deliver the quality of humour expected from the big names attached to it. This mission really should have been aborted.